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CONFIDENTIAL.

(4798.)

F.O.

424

PART LXXII.

FURTHER CORRESPONDENCE

RESPECTING THE

AFFAIRS OF TURKEY.

127

October to December 1882.

PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON.

F.O. 424

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CONFIDENTIAL.

Further Correspondence respecting the Affairs of Turkey.

PART LXXII.

No. 1.

Mr. R. Kennedy to Earl Granville.—(Received October 1.)

E

(No. 80. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Sophia, September* 23, 1882.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 69, Confidential, of the 9th ultimo, I have the honour to state that the "Journal Officiel" constantly publishes reports from the Prefects of the various districts of Eastern Bulgaria on the subject of the depredations committed by bands of brigands, whose numbers appear to vary from five to twenty, and who in these official documents are invariably called "Turks."

Mr. Vice-Consul Brophy, in a despatch of which I have the honour to inclose copy, states that the greater number of the brigands are Bulgarians in Turkish disguise, that the fines imposed on villages where robberies have taken place have been made to fall exclusively on the Mahommedan population, and that in some of the more remote districts of Silistria very little or no evidence is sufficient to commit a Mussulman of any crime of which he may be accused.

On the other hand, M. Grecoff, the Minister of Justice, has told me that, although there is no such thing as a systematic persecution of Mahommedans in the Principality, there may be in the more remote districts isolated cases of cruelties perpetrated by Bulgarians upon Mussulmans, which, however, both the Central Government, as well as the local authorities, are most anxious to prevent, as it is greatly to the interest of the Principality not to allow its small population to be still further reduced by the emigration, owing to ill-treatment, of any part of its inhabitants; but his Excellency, as well as many local officials with whom I have conversed, declare that the "fanaticism" of the Turks prevents them living on terms of equality with their Bulgarian neighbours over whom they formerly exercised such despotic authority.

It cannot, I think, be doubted that the Prince's Government are sincere in their desire to afford adequate protection to their Mussulman subjects, and in the more important towns and districts where the Prefects are men of position and education, and are fully alive to the responsibilities imposed upon them, the Mussulmans would appear to have little ground for complaint; but the difficulties with which the Government have to contend in controlling the conduct of petty village officials, especially in the more remote parts of the Principality, and of maintaining peaceable relations between two antipathetical sections of the population, whose positions are now diametrically reversed, and in whose minds rankle the memories of former cruelties, sufferings, and oppression, are such as to tax their resources to the utmost.

With regard to the concluding statement of Mr. Brophy's despatch, to the effect that it is "the interest or policy of some to make out that the mass of the Turkish inhabitants of Bulgaria were on the eve of a general rising, or at least were all tainted with brigandage," I may state that General Sobolev, a few days after the proclamation of martial law in certain districts of Eastern Bulgaria, professed, in conversation with

one of my colleagues, to believe that the great increase of brigandage in the Principality was a movement instigated at and directed from Constantinople.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ROBT. J. KENNEDY.

Inclosure in No. 1.

Vice-Consul Brophy to Mr. R. Kennedy.

Varna, September 12, 1882.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report that, for about a month past, the question of brigandage in various districts has engaged the attention of the Administration, leading to the Government proclaiming a state of siege over more than the eastern half of the Principality.

Although the brigands are few in number, and do not seem to have committed any great excesses, it is naturally desirable that such disorders should be nipped in the bud, even at the cost of putting the country under martial law, to suppress a state of things which the ordinary police force ought to have sufficed to put an end to, provided that the measure attained its object, which is at least doubtful.

These brigands generally go about in bands of five to ten mounted men, fully armed, and despoil chiefly the Mahommedan villagers, who, contrary to the assertions of the Bulgarian authorities, are not now provided with arms for self-defence, and are always got up as Turks, although the greater number of them are Bulgars thus disguised; and it is a remarkable circumstance that nearly all the persons hitherto captured and punished on the accusation of being brigands have been Mussulmans, only to be satisfactorily explained by the joint fact that all the machinery of the martial law, such as the fining to the extent of beggaring the villages near which some case of robbery has taken place, has been made to fall exclusively upon the Mahommedan population, with a view of making their further stay in Bulgaria impossible, and forcing them to leave their property to their Christian neighbours.

In some of the remoter districts of Silistria, the Touzlouk, and the Deli Orman, some members of the local authorities have been in league with the brigands, thereby creating opportunities for fining or for ransoming the Turkish inhabitants of the parts committed to their charge, very little or no evidence at all being sufficient to convict a Mussulman of any crime of which he may be accused.

There have been two cases of brigandage in this neighbourhood recently: one took place about seven days ago near the line of railway by Devna, when a band of seven men stopped and robbed of their money the peasants returning from the town after the sale of their corn, &c.; and as during the day they stopped about 120 carts in this manner, it is supposed that they netted between £T. 300 and £T. 400; the other case occurred on the 9th instant at and in the neighbourhood of Terzi Paroussis garden, about 6 miles to the south of Varna, when seven men, supposed to be the same as those who had appeared at Devna, accompanied by at least as many more, waylaid some charcoal-burners, and deprived them of eight horses and what money they had, besides entering a "tchiftlik" (farm), and taking therefrom a gun and saddles.

These brigands appear to have been nearly all Turks, though some assert that there were Pomacks amongst them, and they are not represented as having killed or wounded any of those they attacked.

Police and soldiers were sent out after them, but succeeded only in capturing and imprisoning five Turkish "bostandjis" (gardeners) who had nothing to do with the robberies.

For a long time after the judicious measures of the former Minister for War, General Ehrenroth, who recognized that the "brigandage" was fostered by some of the Bulgarian local authorities, and who, while punishing severely proved cases of brigandage, gave the Turkish peasants a certain amount of arms to protect themselves against attack, the country enjoyed a state of quiet which would not have been disturbed had it not been that it was the interest or policy of some to make out that the mass of the Turkish inhabitants of Bulgaria were on the eve of a general rising, or at least were all tainted with brigandage.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. G. BROPHY.

P.S.—I have just been informed that it was not at Devna, but at Adjemlar, near the Tazardjik road, that the brigands waylaid the carts, the name of Devna being connected with another smaller robbery.

A. G. B.

No. 2.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received October 1.)

(No. 934.)
Therapia, September 25, 1882.

My Lord,

WITH reference to Mr. Kirby Green's despatch to your Lordship No. 75, a copy of which was forwarded to me, I have the honour to state that I communicated its substance to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs in the form of a *pro-memorid*.

Artin Effendi at once gave orders that instructions should be sent to Abdi Pasha, Governor of Scutari, to take steps to prevent the recurrence of such disorders as those mentioned in Mr. Kirby Green's despatch, and to forbid the departure of armed bands of Albanians from Gruda and Hoti to Podgoritza.

At the same time a despatch was addressed by the Sublime Porte to the Ottoman Minister at Cettinjé instructing him to endeavour to persuade the Prince of Montenegro to give similar orders to the Montenegrin frontier authorities.

In issuing these instructions, the Sublime Porte laid stress upon the fact that it was the more necessary to prevent any outbreak of hostilities on the frontier, as there were hopes of a speedy arrangement being arrived at for the definite delimitation of the frontier-line.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

No. 3.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received October 1.)

(No. 936.)
Therapia, September 26, 1882.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to state that I have lately been doing my best to induce the Turkish Government to come to a speedy settlement of its dispute with the Government of His Hellenic Majesty in regard to the contested points along the new frontier. It is not necessary that I should trouble your Lordship with a repetition of the language I have held in reference to this subject both to the Prime Minister and to Said Pasha. I may mention, however, that I took advantage of some private information communicated to me from Athens by Mr. Egerton in reference to what were the real interests of the Porte in the matter; and I have reason to think that these representations produced a considerable effect on their Excellencies' minds.

Last Sunday, on the invitation of M. Nelidoff, a Conference was to have been held by the Ambassadors on the Greek frontier question, but a few minutes before we assembled, news reached one of my colleagues that the affair had that afternoon received a solution in the manner recorded in my telegram to your Lordship No. 418 of the 24th instant.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

No. 4.

Earl Granville to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 599.)
(Telegraphic.)
Foreign Office, October 1, 1882, 7 P.M.

COMMUNICATION reported by Mr. Egerton's telegram No. 59 of 29th, as having been made to Greek Government by Turkish Chargé d'Affaires, is incompatible with assurances given to us by the Porte, through Musurus Pasha, that all the disputed points would be given up to Greece at once, the question of the alternative line lately proposed by Turkey being reserved.

No. 5.

Earl Granville to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 594. Ext. 599.)
My Lord, *Foreign Office, October* 1, 1882.

IN a telegram dated the 29th ultimo, which Mr. Egerton has also transmitted to your Excellency, he states that the Turkish Chargé d'Affaires at Athens had on that day communicated to the Greek Government a telegram from the Porte, declaring that the Ottoman troops would not be withdrawn beyond the line of frontier proposed in the Memorandum of Mukhtar Pasha. This communication to the Greek Government is incompatible with the assurances received by Her Majesty's Government from the Porte through Musurus Pasha, which were that all the disputed points would be given up to Greece at once, the question of the alternative line lately proposed by Turkey being reserved.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 6.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received October 2.)

(No. 469.)
My Lord, *Vienna, September* 29, 1882.

THE Prince of Montenegro arrived here a few days ago on his way back to his Principality after a visit to Russia, which by its duration has excited the wrath of the Austrian and Hungarian press, but in no respect that of the Imperial Government.

An exhibition of the sympathy between Russia and Montenegro, which has existed for many generations, neither surprises nor irritates Count Kálnoky, who is perfectly satisfied with the attitude of Prince Nicholas towards this country.

His Highness, indeed, appears to have said with perfect openness that everything that was done to further the progress of the Principality, either by extending its frontiers or by opening up roads and communications, only made him feel the more how indispensable it was for him to maintain good relations with an Empire within whose power he lay more than ever, and from which alone his independence could be threatened.

Neither the Prince nor Count Kálnoky seem to attach the slightest importance to the collision which lately took place on the Albanian frontier, but the latter advised His Highness to endeavour to come to a direct arrangement with the Turkish Government respecting the points where the line is still undecided.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 7.

Mr. Egerton to Earl Granville.—(Received October 2, 11 P.M.)

(No. 62.)
(Telegraphic.) *Athens, October* 2, 1882, 11 A.M.

GREEK Minister at Constantinople telegraphs that yesterday Saïd Pasha again agreed to evacuate whole territory on Greek side of European frontier, and said that corresponding orders would be sent to Turkish General.

No. 8.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(Received October 4.)

(No. 81.)
My Lord, *Cettinjé, September* 25, 1882.

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship, with reference to my despatch No. 67 of the 11th August last, that I learn that Riza Bey has received instructions from the Porte to come to a direct and amicable settlement with the Montenegrin Government on the subject of the remaining disputed points of the Albano-Montenegrin

frontier, and that Riza Bey is awaiting the return of the Prince from Russia to carry out the Porte's wishes.

The Turkish Envoy will not succeed in this matter if his instructions are based on the principle that concessions must only come from the side which cares the least for a settlement.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 9.

Mr. Egerton to Earl Granville.—(Received October 5.)

(No. 160.)
My Lord, *Athens, September* 25, 1882.

M. TRICOUPI received a telegram last night from the Greek Minister at Constantinople stating that he had had an interview with Saïd Pasha, who made him an announcement to the effect that the Sultan, anxious to consolidate good relations with Greece, was willing to order his troops to evacuate the points in dispute in accordance with the tracing of the European Frontier Commission; the evacuation to take place within a day or two.

The Porte expected that both Powers should reciprocally come to a mutual understanding as to the improvement of the frontier-line in the neighbourhood of Gounitza.

When I went to M. Tricoupi to-day his Excellency told me that M. Condouriotis had guarded himself from entering into any engagement as to the improvement of the frontier-line in any particular neighbourhood; but he (M. Tricoupi), as he had told me before, was aware that it would be advantageous to both parties to come to friendly agreement for mutual exchange of territory in certain parts of the frontier, and he would be willing to enter into such negotiation after the departure of the Turks from Greek territory.

He told me that he had telegraphed to General Grivas to take steps to observe and report on the evacuation of the points now occupied by the Turkish troops on the Greek side of the frontier-line, and to take possession of them on the completion of the evacuation.

I expressed a hope that no animosity or want of tact would be displayed, and that the General would be cautioned to show a very amicable spirit in the arrangements he will have to superintend.

He answered that he was confident, from the manner in which General Grivas had carried out the armistice arrangement, that there was nothing to fear on this score.

I asked him next whether he had made the necessary arrangements respecting the Turco-Hellenic Commission for the settlement of the indemnity to be paid to the Porte for Government lands and for claims for private property.

He answered he had, the Greek members were appointed, and ready to commence their labours whenever required.

He told me that he was most deeply grateful to Her Majesty's Government, whose attitude in support of the Treaty gave an example to other Powers, and thus put an end to this serious complication. But for the influence of Her Majesty's Ambassador with the Porte, he feels certain that the Sultan would not have consented yesterday to the legitimate pretensions of Greece.

He also expressed his thanks to the Italian Government, who had seconded in this matter the views of Her Majesty's Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWIN H. EGERTON.

No. 10.

Mr. Egerton to Earl Granville.—(Received October 5.)

E

(No. 161. Confidential.) *Athens, September* 25, 1882.

My Lord,

IN conversation with M. Tricoupi yesterday he assured me that, but for a telegram from the Greek Minister in London giving him hopes that Her Majesty's Government were disposed to take a favourable view of the Treaty rights of Greece, he would have scarcely thought himself justified in giving positive orders to the Greek General to cease from hostilities.

I must say that it is difficult to me to see how his Excellency could have been justified, in any case, in continuing the struggle; but I am sorry to say that both I and others were convinced that he was determined (having, as he believed, been attacked) to attempt, with totally inadequate means, to gain by force what he had no hopes of obtaining by peaceful methods, viz., the territory given to Greece by Europe.

I should mention here a point which has frequently been misrepresented.

It was not any move of the troops to Zorba which caused the outbreak of hostilities. When the Turks first made complaint, as I reported in my despatch No. 123 of the 9th ultimo, that the Greeks had occupied a point which blocked their communications with Karali Derbend, the Greeks, according to General Grivas' Report, subsequently received, had already held Zorba for three months previously; that point having been occupied, so M. Tricoupi informed me yesterday, immediately after General Grivas' arrival to take command in Thessaly, which was shortly after M. Tricoupi's accession to office this spring.

The distinction is not very important, for the fact of there being Greeks at Zorba caused the collision; but I mention it to show that my information, derived from statements I have at various times received on the subject from M. Tricoupi, is at variance with the opinion, which I observe is current, that the late complication began by M. Tricoupi ordering the occupation of Zorba in August last.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDWIN H. EGERTON.

No. 11.

Mr. Egerton to Earl Granville.—(Received October 7.)

(No. 163.) *Athens, September* 29, 1882.

My Lord,

THIS morning M. Tricoupi told me that Saïd Pasha had informed the Greek Minister that orders were on the point of being sent for the immediate evacuation of the territory now held by the Turks on the Greek side of the frontier-line.

In the afternoon, however, the Turkish Chargé d'Affaires called upon him and communicated a telegram reversing the former decision of his Government, and stating that the Ottoman troops would not withdraw from the line traced out in Moukhtar Pasha's Memorandum.

This sudden change is most remarkable. On the 27th the Turkish Foreign Minister writes in an official communication to the Greek Minister: "We have wished to reserve ('Nous avons voulu tenir sous réserve') the ratification of the frontier near Gounitza," though "we admit that we are bound to evacuate the whole line at once" ("tout en devant évacuer dès à présent la ligne," &c.); whilst, on the 29th, the Turkish Government proposes, in carrying out the evacuation, to adopt the line of Moukhtar's Memorandum, to act according to their reserve ("agir conformément à notre réserve admise par le Gouvernement Grec")—a reserve which, as I have already informed your Lordship, was never admitted by the Greek Minister or Government.

Indeed, however much inclined the Greek Government might be to make amicable frontier arrangements ultimately with the Turkish Government, this particular district about Gounitza is one where M. Tricoupi says no compromise can well be made. With the Turks posted as they are now near Gounitza and Zarkos, the important Greek road from Larissa to Trikala passes through the Turkish-held territory, with the two fords in the power of the Turks. Moreover, Moukhtar Pasha's proposal bringing the frontier-line to the River Salamvrias is in direct contradiction to the spirit and letter of the Convention as expressed in Article I, and to the unanimous

decision which the European Commissioners pronounced against the Turkish Protocol.

Owing, therefore, to the sudden change of language of the Porte, M. Tricoupi is now in the greatest perplexity; the difficulty is the same as it was last Saturday before the arrangement apparently arrived at on Sunday, plus the additional bitterness which the deception has certainly aroused.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDWIN H. EGERTON.

No. 12.

Mr. Egerton to Earl Granville.—(Received October 7.)

(No. 164.)

My Lord, *Athens, September* 30, 1882.

WITH reference to the representation of the Porte to Her Majesty's Government—a representation also addressed to other Powers—that the Greeks were sending guns and munitions of war to Arta and Punta, I should inform your Lordship that the Turkish Chargé d'Affaires has frequently during the past month addressed remonstrances on the subject of the military preparations of the Greeks at Arta and elsewhere.

It appears that early in the month the Greek Government sent six guns to Arta, and has been since frequently sending reinforcements to their troops at Arta, and I believe a gun or two have been sent quite lately.

They would no doubt have sent more guns if they had them to spare; but, as a fact, the Greeks have not many to send.

M. Tricoupi, however, mentioned in my conversation with him to-day that he was not sending artillery to or fortifying Punta, which, by Article II of the Frontier Convention, should, as your Lordship knows, remain disarmed.

To the fortifying of Arta, should the Greeks think themselves justified in incurring such unremunerative expenditure, the Turks cannot well object from a Treaty point of view, however unneighbourly they may think the action.

M. Tricoupi's language to Tewfik Bey, when the latter complained of the reinforcements and munitions sent to the Greek force at Arta, was as follows:—

"You are quite right; I have sent and am sending reinforcements. I do not make any mystery of the matter; indeed, it would be absurd if I were to do so. Greece is not a country where secrets of any kind can be kept, still less one respecting military preparations. They are sent because the Turkish forces near Arta have been much reinforced, and I intend to do all I can to strengthen the Greek position at Arta so long as you on your side keep increasing your already large force in that district."

Such is the frank *tu quoque* answer which M. Tricoupi has always returned to Turkish complaints of Greek armaments.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDWIN H. EGERTON.

No. 13.

Mr. Egerton to Earl Granville.—(Received October 7.)

(No. 165.)

My Lord, *Athens, September* 30, 1882.

AS I observed, in the British Vice-Consul at Santa Maura's No. 27 of the 16th instant, mention of sixty infantry sent to reinforce the "garrison at Fort Punta," and a dispatch of heavy ordnance and war material which he reports as expected for Arta and Fort Punta, I have to-day written to him to make inquiries discreetly, and to inform me whether the heavy ordnance in question was really sent.

Should such—which I cannot believe probable—turn out to be the case, I shall at once mention the fact to the Greek Prime Minister.

The heavy ordnance reported in Mr. Onofrio's No. 25 of the 9th September to have been sent from the Piræus was, I believe, the six pieces of field artillery which left from the Piræus about the 5th of this month.

There is much tall talk among Greeks, as is only natural, about their military

preparations and armaments, which, from a military point of view, cannot be so formidable to their neighbours as financially they must be to themselves.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWIN H. EGERTON.

No. 14.

Mr. Egerton to Earl Granville.—(Received October 9.)

(No. 166.) *Athens, October 2, 1882.*

My Lord,

M. TRICOUPI informed me this morning that he had received a telegram late last night from M. Condouriotis, to the effect that after a proposal made and refused for the neutralization of the territory desired by the Turks near Gounitza, Saïd Pasha had ultimately agreed to abide by the arrangement come to a week before for the evacuation of the territory occupied by Turkish troops on the Greek side of the frontier line, or, as the Turkish Minister expresses it, of the "four points" comprising the Greek Nezeros, with Karali Dervend, Gounitza and Kritsovali, now in Turkish hands.

His Excellency further assured the Greek Minister that orders would be given to the local military Commanders for the evacuation by the Turkish troops of the Greek territory.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWIN H. EGERTON.

No. 15.

Mr. Egerton to Earl Granville.—(Received October 9.)

(No. 167.) *Athens, October 2, 1882.*

My Lord,

I WAS sorry to hear from M. Tricoupis to-day that, though he had at once stopped all military preparations eight days ago, on the news of the arrangement at Constantinople, he had been compelled, by the sudden refusal of the Porte to execute that arrangement, to resume them, and that he should not now give orders for their suspension, notwithstanding last night's favourable news from Constantinople, until the evacuation was actually a fact.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWIN H. EGERTON.

No. 16.

Consul Reade to Earl Granville.—(Received October 9.)

(No. 11.) *Corfu, October 4, 1882.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship, herewith inclosed, a further despatch from the Vice-Consul at Santa Maura, on the state of affairs in the Arta district.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. READE.

Inclosure in No. 16.

Vice-Consul Onofrio to Consul Reade.

Santa Maura, September 30, 1882.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report that intelligence has reached me from Arta to the effect that four big Krupp guns, being part of the war material recently landed at Menidi, have been mounted on the Arta Fort, and that earthworks are being thrown up on the hills surrounding the town.

2. The troops stationed at that place having been recently strengthened, there are

now more than 1,000 men of all arms collected there, including one battery of artillery, with six breech-loading mountain pieces.

3. There is a renewal on the part of the Turkish authorities of the difficulties complained of last year in connection with the traffic over the bridge, and the introduction into Arta of the produce of the lands situated on the opposite bank of the Arachtos.

4. The same intelligence brings that a Mahommedan landlord at Neokorion (a village situate on the Turkish side of the border) has by threats and intimidation compelled the tenants on his farm to sign a document acknowledging his ownership of said farm. Some of the peasants, having declined to sign, were arrested by the Turkish authorities and sent to Janina. This affair has naturally produced much ill-feeling in the district; but while it may be regarded as one of the results of the mischievous and impolitic agrarian agitation stirred up in the Arta district, it suggests the idea that even among Mahommedans further annexation of Epirote territory to Greece is regarded to be within the range of possibilities at a more or less remote date.

5. The Greek gun-boat "Hydra" remains stationed in the Gulf of Arta, and the "Plexavra" at this port.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. ONOFRIO.

No. 17.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received October 9.)

(No. 483.)

My Lord, *Vienna, October 6, 1882.*

I AM informed that the Turkish Ambassador has made some representation to Count Kálnoky respecting the armaments placed by the Greek Government in certain positions upon the Gulf of Arta, contrary to the stipulations of the Treaty.

His Excellency has mentioned the matter to the Greek Minister, and has pointed out that the proceeding would be irregular.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 18.

Earl Granville to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 603. Ext. 610.)

My Lord, *Foreign Office, October 12, 1882.*

MR. EGERTON informs me that he has already forwarded to your Excellency a copy of his despatch No. 168 of the 4th instant, with regard to the probable discharge from custody of two brigands concerned in the capture of Mr. Suter. I have to request that you will address an application to the Porte asking that immediate instructions may be sent to the Turkish Chargé d'Affaires at Athens to beg that, in the event of the brigands being released, they may be sent to some Turkish port, there to be arrested by the Turkish authorities.

Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Athens has been instructed to place an embargo, on behalf of the British Government, on any valuables that may be found in the possession of the brigands.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 19.

Earl Granville to Mr. Egerton.

(No. 92. Ext. 44.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, October 12, 1882.*

I TRANSMIT to you herewith a copy of an instruction I have addressed to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople with regard to the case of the brigands

referred to in your despatch No. 168 of the 4th instant.* I have to request that you will give instructions to the lawyer of Her Majesty's Legation to take such steps as may be necessary for claiming, on behalf of Her Majesty's Government, any valuables that may be found in the possession of those brigands.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 20.

Mr. R. Kennedy to Earl Granville.—(Received October 16.)

(No. 83.)
Sophia, October 7, 1882.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 80 of the 23rd ultimo, I have the honour to inclose copy of a despatch which I have received from Mr. Vice-Consul Brophy on the subject of the continued emigration from Bulgaria—owing to various causes—of Mussulman inhabitants.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ROBT. J. KENNEDY.

Inclosure in No. 20.

Vice-Consul Brophy to Mr. R. Kennedy.

Varna, September 28, 1882.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report that, during the year 1881, 6,188 Mussulman emigrants paid for passages to Constantinople by the Austrian, Russian, and other steamers touching at this port, and that during the last eight months of this year, 3,300 more have quitted the country in a like manner.

To these figures must be added about 15 per cent., or altogether 10,910 in the one year and eight months for young children free from payment; and this number will probably have amounted to about 13,000 or 14,000 by the end of the year, September, October, November, and December (after the sale of their agricultural produce, &c.), being the months the emigrants prefer for their departure. The greater bulk, however, of the Mussulman population quitting this country do not go by sea from here, but prefer to go overland, crossing the Balkans in their own oxen-carts, carrying their families and their scanty household utensils, &c., and continuing south, they mostly embark at Gallipoli or Rodosto for the Asiatic shores.

This extensive movement by the Mussulman peasant inhabitants of the Principality has been brought about by various causes. In the beginning it was the persecution and ill-treatment they suffered at the hands of the Bulgarians, on which subject I had several times to report in the years 1879 and 1880, the intensity of which disappeared after the measures of pacification of General Ehrenroth, but which have now and then subsequently broken out under the milder forms of brigandage, cattle-stealing, forcible occupation of Turkish lands and property, &c., chiefly in the remoter districts of Silistria, the Delhi Osman, and the Touzlouk, places where the arbitrary acts of the local authorities are not so liable to come under public ken – a state of things creating a sense of insecurity amongst the Turks, who consider that any period of quiet they may be actually enjoying is merely a respite in the vexations to which they are liable.

Military service in the Christian Bulgarian army is also naturally distasteful to the Turks, and although the price of immunity therefrom has latterly been very much reduced and brought to a low sum, there are comparatively few who are in a position to pay down at once the necessary redemption money. It ought, moreover, to be added that the persistent Mussulman emigration is of itself a contagious example for those who still remain behind.

For a considerable time past the Turkish population of this immediate neighbourhood have had but little to complain of, owing to the department of Varna having been administered by an intelligent and well-intentioned authority; but one hears not unfrequently of cases of injustice and cruelty inflicted upon the inhabitants of the more out-of-the-way Mahommedan villages, the truth of which it is difficult for me to

* No. 18.

gauge accurately without being in the possession of general instructions to proceed to places where anything of really grave nature is averred to have happened.

Had such cases occurred to Rayahs under Turkish rule, there would have been no lack of information upon the subject owing to the facilities the aggrieved parties found of carrying their complaints to persons interested in making the most of them. The Turkish peasants, however, under Christian rule are not in such a favourable position for the publication of their wrongs, and, besides being more reticent by nature, those Mussulmans who are suspected of having confided their complaints to any foreign Consular officer are always most severely punished by the Bulgarian authorities, which, together with the fact that although their representations may have been met with expressions of sympathy, they were followed by no appreciable benefit to the sufferers in the way of the redress of their grievances, have led the Mussulmans to abstain from communicating information, however well-grounded, of outrages, &c., being aware that the benefit to be hoped for therefrom was exceedingly problematic, but that, on the Bulgarian authorities gaining an inkling of their having done so, condign punishment would certainly be meted out upon the informants.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. G. BROPHY.

No. 21.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received October 16.)

(No. 963.)
Therapia, October 8, 1882.

My Lord,

BEING in receipt of a copy of Mr. Kirby Green's despatch to your Lordship No. 78 of the 16th ultimo, I recently took an opportunity of bringing to the notice of the Sublime Porte his views as to the difficulties on the Podgoritza frontier, as expressed in the above despatch.

I was informed, in reply, that the question had already been mooted at the Porte by several other Embassies, and that in consequence of their representations the Vali of Scutari had been instructed to report upon the situation. I was further told that the Imperial authorities of the Vilayet of Scutari had always assured the Sublime Porte that they would answer for the maintenance of order and tranquillity throughout the vilayet; that the Albanian tribes on the frontier had no hostile intentions with regard to the Montenegrins; and that the insignificant disturbances which had from time to time taken place were isolated cases, and only due to the "Vendetta," which still plays so prominent a part in the manners and customs of both the Albanians and Montenegrins.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

No. 22.

Mr. Egerton to Earl Granville.—(Received October 16.)

(No. 172.)
Athens, October 10, 1882.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 165 of the 30th ultimo, stating that I had written to the British Vice-Consul at Santa Maura in order to clear up an apparent discrepancy between his information and the official statements here respecting the dispatch of artillery to Fort Punta, I have the honour to state that he reports, in answer to my letter, that no artillery has been sent to the Greek fort of Punta, the garrison of which now consists of twenty-five to thirty men; but Mr. Onofrio believes that there was a question at one time of putting Fort Punta into a proper state of defence owing to the Turkish forts at Prevesa on the opposite side of the entrance of the gulf still continuing heavily armed contrary to Article II of the Frontier Convention.

I have the honour to inclose copies of my question, and of Mr. Onofrio's answer.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWIN H. EGERTON.

Inclosure 1 in No. 22.

Mr. Egerton to Vice-Consul Onofrio.

(Private and Confidential.) *Athens, September 30, 1882.*

Sir,

I SEE that a despatch from you dated the 16th September states that a reinforcement of men was sent to Fort Punta, and that heavy ordnance, &c., was expected by the "Bouboulina" for Fort Punta as well as Arta.

Accusations having been made by the Turks with regard to the arming of Punta, I should be glad to know, if you can tell me, whether the ordnance in question was sent to Punta, which, by Treaty, should not continue a place fortified with artillery.

As far as I learn from here, though considerable reinforcements of men were sent to Arta, but a small amount of artillery was sent early in the month, as the Greek Government possess but a small quantity of spare guns.

Do not make questions which would attract notice on this subject.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDWIN H. EGERTON.

Inclosure 2 in No. 22.

Vice-Consul Onofrio to Mr. Egerton.

(Confidential) *Santa Maura, October 7, 1882.*

Sir,

IN acknowledging the receipt on the 5th of your despatch of the 30th ultimo, Private and Confidential, I have the honour to state that, as far as I learn here, arms and ammunition were dispatched two or three weeks ago to Fort Punta, but no artillery has hitherto been sent thither. It would appear, however, from all that has transpired on this subject, that the question of placing that fort in a proper state of defence was at the time under consideration owing to the fact that in spite of the Treaty the Prevesa forts commanding the entrance to the Gulf of Arta still continue to be armed with artillery of the heaviest description.

With regard to the cargo of the "Bouboulina," it consisted of four big Krupp guns (two of which, according to the first reports emanating from fairly reliable sources, were intended for Fort Punta), a considerable amount of shells and small arm ammunition, rifles, gunpowder, and dynamite, all of which was tranferred to Monidi by the gun-boats "Hydra" and "Plexaura." It is now stated that the said guns have since been mounted on the Arta fort, the garrison of which having been recently reinforced now numbers more than 1,000 men of all arms, including one battery of mountain artillery with six breech-loading guns.

The garrison of Punta is now reduced to some twenty-five or thirty men.

I have, &c.

(Signed) F. ONOFRIO.

No. 23.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(Received October 19.)

E (No. 83.) *Cettinjé, October 3, 1882.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that Prince Nicholas arrived here this morning on his return from Russia, and that His Highness was enthusiastically received by the inhabitants of Cettinjé and the majority of the Voïvodes and officials of the Principality, who had come to the capital for the purpose of welcoming their Sovereign back to Montenegro.

Prince Nicholas, in a speech made to the concourse before the Palace, stated that, if he could not say he had returned with money, he could tell his people he had secured for them what was even more precious than gold, and that was the protection and friendship of the Emperor of Russia.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 24.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(Received October 21.)

(No. 85. Confidential.) *Cettinjé, October 5, 1882.*

My Lord,

LAST night I had the honour of dining at the Palace, and later in the evening Prince Nicholas spoke to me at some length concerning his recent visit to Russia, and his passages through Vienna.

His Highness was loud in praise of the cordiality of his reception by the Emperor and Empress of Russia and the Russian people, and said he had been able to observe that there was little truth in the newspaper reports of Nihilistic manœuvres and the seclusion maintained by the Russian Court. Nevertheless, the Prince let me infer that perhaps his presence by the side of the Emperor on the occasions when His Imperial Majesty went out in public may have been deemed an additional safeguard for the Emperor's person, in view of the great popularity of His Highness in the Slav world.

The Prince said one of his most difficult tasks had been to steer clear of political rocks when receiving deputations, and thanking them for their welcome. His Highness knew that there were always others besides Slavophils present to note his words, and he had therefore been all the more gratified, when returning through Vienna, to hear from Count Kálnoky's mouth that his bearing and language had throughout been found most correct.

The matter, however, which had given Prince Nicholas the greatest pleasure, he said, was the really friendly reception met with from the Austrian Court and Ministers in Vienna on both journeys, outward and homeward, especially as when leaving Cettinjé he had been rather nervous on this score.

These were ostensibly the most salient observations concerning his travels, but it was not difficult to see that the Prince attached more importance to two conversations he had held at Vienna, one with Count Kálnoky, and the other with M. von Kállay, and which His Highness recounted to me as a proof of the frankness of the intercourse which had arisen between him and the Austro-Hungarian Ministers.

Prince Nicholas said that, Count Kálnoky having reproached him for the little sympathy that appeared to exist between the Montenegrin people and the Austro-Hungarian Government, when the latter did everything in its power to advance their prosperity, he had replied that if his Excellency would permit him to speak without the slightest reserve, and as between one private individual to another, and not as between a Sovereign and the Foreign Minister of a great neighbouring State, he would soon explain how it came to pass that the Montenegrins were not as much attached to the Austrians as to the Russians.

The story was not a long one, continued the Prince, when Count Kálnoky had begged him to use the greatest frankness with him, as it could be summed up in the single fact that Austria-Hungary had not in one sole instance been generous to the Principality, its favours having been either simple acts of courtesy to himself, the Prince, and his family, or assistance for objects of just as much value to the Empire as to Montenegro.

Russia, on the contrary, had, whilst pursuing her own purposes, always shown that she bore in mind the claims of the Principality, and wished to satisfy them.

How could Count Kálnoky complain of the ingratitude of the Montenegrins, when the greed of Austria was so great that it had wrested from them at Berlin nearly the whole of the small zone conquered by them from the Turks in the Herzegovina, and whilst all sorts of difficulties had been raised as to the retention of the territories gained on the Albanian side? Had Austria's voice been sufficient, it would have reduced, even in that direction, the conquests of the Principality, under the intention of later on annexing for herself every inch of another Turkish province.

Article XXIX of the Treaty of Berlin ought to be an adequate answer to Count Kálnoky's question as to the ill-humour of the Montenegrins. There was nothing surely in that Article to make them proud of their nationality, nor was the gift of Spiéa to Austria-Hungary a free one.

His Highness went on to assure the Minister that the hard terms exacted from the Principality were as distasteful to him as to the most independent of his mountaineers, but his superior knowledge of the power of Austria-Hungary, and his respect for Treaty engagements, might, notwithstanding, be accepted as a guarantee for the loyal conduct of his little State. Recollections and aspirations could not, however, be

stifled; and if the repressive policy of the Austrian Government, as appeared possible, went on increasing, it might very easily happen that His Highness' hold over his people would be weakened, in which case Austria-Hungary would suddenly discover, when a favourable opportunity arose, that Montenegro was something more than an Afghanistan, an Algeria, a Zululand, or a Tunis.

Prince Nicholas told me that Count Kálnoky listened with the greatest good nature and attention to His Highness' lengthy complaint, and admitted that perhaps a mistake had been committed in not treating Montenegro with more liberality.

I must, however, here say that it is probable His Highness gave his statements, when making them to Count Kálnoky and M. von Kállay (the Prince's conversation with the latter was similar to the one with the Count), more the aspect of confidential counsels for a proximate settlement with the Principality than of accusations accompanied by menaces; and I believe Prince Nicholas has merely repeated to me what passed between him and the Austrian Ministers, under the impression that the seeds of his conversations may have fallen on good ground, and so ought not to be interfered with by third parties. If His Highness is mistaken, he will naturally learn to fancy himself more than ever aggrieved, and long for the day when his boasted power against Austria-Hungary may be tested.

In the meantime, the evident satisfaction of the Prince with the friendship which he has established with Count Kálnoky and M. von Kállay promises well for the immediate future of the political intercourse between Montenegro and its powerful neighbour.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 25.

Mr. Egerton to Earl Granville.—(Received October 21.)

(No. 173.) *Athens, October 13, 1882.*

My Lord,

OWING to delays at Constantinople, it was not till the day before yesterday that the Turkish Chargé d'Affaires was instructed to communicate to the Greek Government the decision of his Government to evacuate the points now occupied by Turkish troops on the Greek side of the frontier-line.

The note of the Porte, however, still dwelt on the proposal of Moukhtar with respect to the territory about Gounitza.

M. Tricoupi, therefore, again answered in the sense of his previous refusals to tie his Government now to any particular concession of territory.

Both parties, however, have agreed to send Commissioners to settle the details of the evacuation, and go into the questions of desirable exchange of territory.

The Greek Commissioners have already started for the frontier, and the Turkish Commissioners are also expected in a few days. Indeed orders seem to have been already sent to the Turkish commanders on the frontier, as on more than one point the officers in charge of Turkish detachments have asked whether the Greek Commissioners had already arrived at the frontier.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWIN H. EGERTON.

No. 26.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received October 23.)

E

(No. 977. Confidential.) *Constantinople, October 14, 1882.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship an interesting and well-written letter which I have received from Mr. Lamb, Acting Consul-General at Philippopoli, respecting Russian intrigues in Eastern Roumelia.

I have also the honour to inclose a Memorandum drawn up by Mr. Goschen, containing some information on the same subject derived from a trustworthy source, and fully corroborating Mr. Lamb's statements.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

Inclosure 1 in No. 26.

Acting Consul-General Lamb to the Earl of Dufferin.

My Lord, *Philippopoli, September 30, 1882.*

I HAVE the honour to bring to your Excellency's notice certain propositions which have recently emanated from the Russian Consulate-General here, and which show its intention of recommencing its efforts to secure the control of the military forces of the province—efforts which had been relaxed since the rebuffs they met with towards the end of last year.

The post of Chief of the Staff of Militia and Gendarmerie has been held since the organization of the province by Colonel de Toustain, a Frenchman, who has studiously endeavoured to identify himself with the national element. The Russians have always desired to substitute an officer of their own nationality, but it is only recently that they have commenced to press the point.

Shortly after the return of Aleko Pasha to Philippopoli, the Russian Consul called upon his Excellency, and informed him that it was the Emperor's desire that Colonel de Toustain's place should be given to an officer named by himself. In answer to Aleko Pasha's objections, M. de Krobel replied that his Excellency could easily effect it through his influence at the Porte, supported, of course, by the Russian Embassy. If it were found inconvenient to dismiss the Colonel, unlimited leave of absence on full pay could be accorded him; and, in that case, to secure the Provincial Treasury against loss, the Russian officer who acted as his *remplaçant*, would draw his pay from St. Petersburgh.

With a Russian established as Chief of the Staff, and the sympathies of the General Commanding-in-chief secured, it would be easy to replace the native Captains and subalterns by Russian officers, and to bring about the same state of affairs as actually exists in Bulgaria, by which the ultimate union, under Russian auspices, would be greatly facilitated.

The Governor naturally refused to entertain the proposal, and maintained his refusal at a subsequent interview, at which M. de Krobel threatened to "report against him" to St. Petersburgh, and to withdraw to Constantinople pending further instructions.

During the Governor's absence the Russian Consulate arranged with the Permanent Committee for the supply of 25,000 Berdan rifles, and 125,000 rounds of ammunition, payment to be made to the Russian Government by instalments. Aleko Pasha, on his return, refused to sanction the purchase.

During his tour in the province he gave orders for the dismissal of the Prefects of the two departments of Eski-Zaghra and Hasskeui. For this step he had ample grounds; but as both these officials were noted Russian partizans, their dismissal has tended still further to widen the breach between the Russian Consulate and the Government. The Permanent Committee, instigated by the former, have noisily espoused the cause of Markoff, the dismissed Prefect of Eski-Zaghra. Violent articles against Aleko Pasha have appeared in several of the local papers, notably in the "Rod," which is edited by a Russian lawyer, and his Excellency professes to hold proofs that some of these articles emanated from the Russian Consulate itself. Both the dismissed Prefects have, it is stated, obtained employment under the Bulgarian Government through Russian influence, notwithstanding a criminal charge which is still hanging over one of them.

His Excellency anticipates serious opposition from the Provincial Assembly which meets next month, and many of whose members seek their inspiration from the Russian Consulate. The ovations which he met with everywhere throughout his tour in the province, and which were apparently quite spontaneous, prove that the country generally is animated by sentiments of gratitude and good-will towards the Governor; yet it is not impossible that the influence which the Russians know how to acquire over its representatives, may be able to neutralize this favourable feeling on the part of the people; and this feeling itself may be considerably modified through the hold which they possess on at least three of the organs of the local press.

Under these circumstances, his Excellency states that he looks for support to the Representatives of the other Powers at Constantinople; and that the assurance of the approval of Her Majesty's Government, which I conveyed to him in accordance with the instructions contained in your Excellency's despatch of the 17th of this month,

was particularly acceptable; and he desired me to express his gratification and gratitude to your Excellency for that assurance.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HARRY LAMB.

Inclosure 2 in No. 26.

Memorandum.

THE Province of Eastern Roumelia appears at present to be in a flourishing condition, and the different elements which compose its population are united in their appreciation of the policy pursued by Aleko Pasha, who was enthusiastically received by them on his late journey through the province. It is stated that if this position of affairs could only continue, there would be every chance of Eastern Roumelia soon becoming one of the most flourishing provinces in Europe; but that unhappily the incessant efforts made by the Governor-General to secure this result are likely to be destroyed by the policy of opposition pursued by Russia, which is being carried out by her Agents with a tenacity and vigour such as they have never shown before.

Their object is, by inundating the province with Russian officers, to get into their hands the entire military power; then, as in Bulgaria, to subordinate the civil administration to the military, and thus become insensibly masters of the province.

The military forces of Eastern Roumelia, including the militia, the gendarmerie, and the reserves, consist of about 80,000 men; if the Russian policy succeeds, these troops will at a given moment be under the direct and exclusive control of Russian officers, and Russian diplomacy will probably take advantage of the slightest trouble which may arise in the East to effect a junction of the Eastern Roumelian forces with those of Bulgaria, and proclaim the fusion of the two provinces; in other words, the annexation of Eastern Roumelia to "Russian Bulgaria."

Up to the present Aleko Pasha has succeeded in defeating these designs. He has reduced to the smallest number possible the Russian officers in the militia, and has given all the most important commands to capable Bulgarian officers and to foreign officers on whose fidelity he can rely. Amongst the latter are mentioned General Borthwick, Inspector of Gendarmerie, and Colonel Toustain, Chief of the Staff; but General Streeker is not included in this category, as he seems to be looked upon as faithless to his trust, and as a mere tool of Russian intrigue.

Far, however, from being discouraged by the want of success that has hitherto attended their efforts, the Russian authorities appear now to be more active than ever, particularly since the return of Aleko Pasha to Philippopoli. Not a day has passed without M. de Krebel, the Russian Consul-General, making representations to his Highness to the effect that the Cabinet of St. Petersburg viewed with the greatest disfavour the fact that he was making common cause with the National party; that it was his Highness' duty to appoint more Russian officers to commands in the army, to nominate prefects devoted to Russian interests, and not to dismiss those whom Russia was known to protect. Finally, M. de Krebel is said to have declared to his Highness that the Czar had expressed a strong desire that Colonel Toustain should be replaced by a Russian Colonel, and that if there was any difficulty in the matter, the former could be granted indefinite leave of absence on full pay, as the Russian Government would undertake to pay the Russian officer who succeeded him. Aleko Pasha declined categorically to entertain this proposal, on the ground that Colonel Toustain had been nominated by the Sultan, that he had always given the highest satisfaction, and had succeeded in gaining the sympathy both of the army and the nation.

In reply to the Governor-General's refusal to dismiss Colonel Toustain, M. de Krebel replied that, nevertheless, it was the desire of the Czar, and that his Highness' refusal to accede to His Majesty's demand would constitute an act of the highest gravity.

This demand on the part of Russia has, it appears, been continually made during the last three years, but never with so much pertinacity, or as a personal request of the Emperor.

It is further reported that the Military Attaché of the Russian Consulate-General recently stated to the Governor-General that unless his Highness at once changed his policy as regards the exclusion of Russian officers from the militia, he would not fail to have a vote of censure passed upon him at the next meeting of the

Provincial Assembly, and that the nation itself would take the first opportunity of expressing its disapprobation of the line of conduct he had chosen to adopt.

It would also appear that the Russian authorities are now actively engaged in getting articles written against Aleko Pasha in the local press, and in generally undermining his popularity in the province, while no effort is being spared to blacken his character in the eyes of the Permanent Committee and the Provincial Assembly.

His Highness is said now to be wearied of the protracted struggle he has so long carried on against Russia, and to be asking how far he can rely upon assistance from the other Great Powers, and especially England, to enable him to continue it.

In a further communication received from the same source as the foregoing, it is reported that M. de Krebel has again reiterated to Aleko Pasha the Czar's demand that a Russian officer should be substituted for Colonel Toustain. On his Highness once more declining to entertain the proposal, M. de Krebel pointed out the serious consequences to his Highness which this refusal might entail; all the more, he added, as the relations between the Czar and the Sublime Porte were at this moment of the closest description. A very warm discussion appears then to have ensued, which ended by Aleko Pasha declaring that never, through his instrumentality, should Eastern Roumelia be handed over to the Russians. On this M. de Krebel said that he would leave at once for Constantinople, to lay a formal complaint against his Highness before M. de Nelidoff, and that at the same time he would forward a report on the subject to the Russian Government.

M. de Krebel left for Constantinople the same day.

It is stated, in conclusion, that these circumstances were communicated to the Austrian and French Consuls at Philippopoli, who reported them by telegraph to their Ambassadors at Constantinople; and it is added that in their despatches they suggested that their Governments should make representations to the Cabinet of St. Petersburg, with a view to putting an end to the intrigues of the Russian authorities, which threaten seriously to disturb the peace and prosperity of the province.

Therapia, October 13, 1882.

No. 27.

Consul Reade to Earl Granville.—(Received October 23.)

(No. 12.)

My Lord, *Corfu, October* 19, 1882.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship, herewith inclosed, copy of a further despatch I have received from Mr. Onofrio, the British Vice-Consul at Santa Maura, respecting the state of things at Arta and the Epirus.

It will be seen ere long what Russia means by re-establishing the Vice-Consulate at Prevesa, and the significant appointment of M. Varzelli.

I hear that the Russian Consul at Janina insisted on the re-establishment of the Vice-Consulate, and also of the appointment of M. Varzelli, a tried Russian Agent, who, during the war of 1877-78, had been instructed to take up his quarters at Santa Maura, and to place himself under the orders of the Consulate at Corfu.

M. Varzelli, along with a leading Greek agitator, had left nothing undone to bring about an outbreak in Epirus, so as to divert the Turks from Bulgaria.

Having failed to induce the local patriotic Committees to give the signal of revolt before the fall of Plevna, he exerted himself in the interest of Russia to discourage the contemplated movement in February 1878, after the conclusion of the war. But the Committees having understood the drift of these Russian intrigues, refused M. Varzelli further admittance into their room, and they even suspected him of keeping the Prevesa and Arta authorities regularly informed of the revolutionary plans and preparations that were being made there by the Committees.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. READE.

Inclosure in No. 27.

Vice-Consul Onofrio to Consul Reade.

(Confidential.) *Santa Maura, October* 14, 1882.

Sir,

THE departure for Arta two or three weeks ago of two Greek gentlemen intimately connected with the Athens Patriotic Committees, and who had taken a prominent part in the agitation which had resulted in the so-called "insurrection in Epirus" in February 1878, attracted much notice and comment here, as at the time a Turco-Greek conflict seemed not improbable.

It now appears from all that has transpired from Arta on this subject that the mission of these two emissaries (one of whom having come out expressly from Athens) was to take advantage of the discontent prevailing in the district in connection with the dividing line drawn between the population and its lands on the opposite bank of the Arachthus, setting on foot an insurrectionary movement on the other side of the border, were it only to draw the attention of the European Conference, which was expected to occupy itself once more of Greeks affairs, to this anomalous condition of things on the Artan frontier.

It appears, however, that the Thessalian frontier question having suddenly solved itself, the contemplated movement was dropped for the moment; but it is stated that these emissaries have established a permanent local Committee at Arta for the purpose of watching events and of bringing about disturbances the moment fresh complications arose in European Turkey. It is not known whether the contemplated movement was condemned by the Government; but considering that the persons in question are both staunch Conoundouroits and personal friends of M. Pakys, there is room for believing that the Government were probably strangers to the "scheme," and that for carrying it out the agitators had mainly depended upon the existing factors of discontent on both sides of the border.

Be it remarked, by the way, that M. Pakys, the promoter of the "Agrarian question," and with whom they had placed themselves in communication on their arrival at Arta, was the leading spirit of the Patriotic Committees in these parts in 1877-78, and that in Epirus he has now gained a certain amount of popularity among the rural population, by whom he is naturally regarded as the hoped-for deliverer of the people from the alleged arbitrary usurpations of the landlord class. There can, therefore, be no doubt that, all things considered, there is no lack of turbulent elements on both sides of the border ever ready to play into the hands of agitators bent on taking advantage of a suitable opportunity for reopening the Epirote question.

Although the "Agrarian question" may have alienated from Greece the bulk of the higher classes in Epirus, but more particularly the Albanian element, among whom there was in 1880 an influential party who favoured the Greco-Albanian Confederation idea, and were even disposed to entertain proposals to this effect from Greece, yet it is unquestionable that such sweeping principles as those propagated by the Pakys agitation, while alienating one class, gain over the masses which having everything to gain, hail the success of the Arta agitation as a precedent to which they might appeal in due course of time, should Epirus be annexed to Greece.

It is worthy of notice that the departure for Arta of the two gentlemen above alluded to having put the Turks on their guard, they took the precaution of avoiding Prevesa on their way back hither, came by way of Vonitza and left for Athens by last mail.

2. The Greek gun-boat "Hydra," and the torpedo-boat "Navpactia," are still reported in the gulf.

3. I understand from Prevesa that the Russian Vice-Consulate at that place, which had been abolished on the outbreak of the war in 1877, has just been re-established, its occupant being M. George Varzelli, a tried Russian Agent.

I have, &c.

(Signed) F. ONOFRIO.

No. 28.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(Received October 25.)

(No. 88.)

My Lord, *Scutari, October* 16, 1882.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that most persistent reports have prevailed here for some time past that Montenegro meditates the immediate annexation, by fair or foul means, of the Albanian frontier districts occupied by the Gruda, Hotti, and Castrati tribes.

The tribes themselves are, as far as I can ascertain, the propagators of these reports, which, however, are apparently in no way supported by the attitude of the Montenegrin Government.

A largess from the Turkish authorities to the mountain clans, in order to confirm them in their loyalty to the Sultan, will probably be the outcome of the fears which asserted Montenegrin hostile designs are ever able to raise in Scutari, and then, perhaps, a raid against some Montenegrin sheepfolds will be perpetrated by the tribesmen to prove their capacity for offence as well as defence against their neighbours.

But this is not the only explanation accepted for the existence of the reports in question.

There are those who believe that the Albanian tribes are being encouraged by their priests to attack the Montenegrins in order to publish the inability of the Turkish Government to control them, and thus to open the door for foreign intervention in North Albanian affairs.

This view is held by many trustworthy persons here, and some have confidentially informed me that the mountain chiefs have intimated to them that they are not acting entirely on their own inspirations. Other local indications can be quoted by those who suspect Austrian guidance in the proceedings of the frontier tribes; affairs, however, I apprehend, are more likely to be solved, for the present, in the manner indicated in the first portion of this despatch, than in the way hoped for by those who are anxious for North Albania to enter upon the same path of progress as her more fortunate neighbours.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 29.

Consul Freeman to Earl Granville.—(Received October 28.)

(No. 36.)

My Lord, *Serajevo, October* 21, 1882.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 34, Political, of the 25th August, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that, in spite of the approach of winter, there appears to be no abatement of the insurrectionary movement in these provinces, and the hope that it would gradually die out as the cold season advanced, can no longer be entertained. It is beyond all doubt that the flame of revolt is fanned and maintained from without, and therefore by judicious treatment, not allowing too extensive an outbreak, the present agitation may be prolonged almost indefinitely.

The actual number of insurgents, or brigands, between whom it is difficult to make a distinction is not large, probably 2,000 at the most, and not a few are mere unwilling associates, as, to avoid the exactions of the insurgent bands, many of the peasants, I am told, send their sons to serve in turn with one or other of these bands.

According to semi-official statements, the principal band at present in the Herzegovina are one of about 600 men under the Chief Salko Forta, another of 400 men under a certain Kurtovic, and three small bands, about 500 men in all, under the leaders Bobic, Eliez, [?] and Mandic, who occupy the defiles in the neighbourhood of Bilek, Nevesinje, and Gacko. In Bosnia there are also said to be three bands under the leaders Agic, Skokic, and Bozovic. They number about 700 men, and hold the mountains between Visegrad, Foca, and Cajnica. As far as possible, these bands avoid any encounter with the troops, while, on the other hand, it also appears now to be the policy of the authorities not to any longer harass these latter by continual, and, as they probably see, useless expeditions against such a slippery foe.

The brigands Tandaric and Zekanovic, so often mentioned in my despatches, and who, during the height of the insurrection figured as insurgent chiefs, appear to have

resumed their former trade. The latter especially has committed many robberies in this neighbourhood, and is also charged with great cruelties towards his victims. A few weeks since he entered during the daytime the country house of a Mussulman landowner, situated not more than a mile and a-half from this town, and carried off his son, a child of five years. He demanded a ransom of 800 ducats, but through the intervention of the landowner's Christian kmets, a smaller sum was accepted, and the child was restored the following day. A cruelty to which Zekanović is especially addicted to make Mussulman landowners give up what money they may have in the house, is to heat and wind iron chains round their necks and arms. There are at the present moment at least two individuals in the hospital of this town frightfully wounded in this way.

It seems to have been imagined that, with the recall and confinement within the frontiers of Montenegro, of Stojan Kovacević, the insurrection would collapse. In the first place, however, it is very doubtful whether his men have also retired to Montenegro, and have not joined the bands of other leaders, and in the next, it is not the suppression of this or that chief and his band which can really influence the insurrection. Cut off all the external assistance, close the frontiers of the neighbouring States to all fugitives, and it will die a natural death before many months are past. By such means alone, coupled with severe justice towards those who have taken part in the revolt, can tranquillity be restored to these provinces; but so long as foreign aid is available, so long as Montenegro exercises only a one-sided neutrality, and so long as the present system of clemency and forbearance is carried out, by which even the most noted brigands can obtain pardon by submission, will revolt and brigandage flourish in the country.

I know that the policy of mildness now in vogue is considered to be a great mistake by those authorities who have been longest in the country, and are best able to form a correct judgment, but it is the policy, I am told, of the Austrian Court, and cannot be resisted.

It is well known to all who have experience in the East, that leniency is interpreted by Orientals as a sign of weakness, and this population is certainly no exception to the rule. They respect whom they fear.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWARD B. FREEMAN.

No. 30.

Mr. Locock to Earl Granville.—(Received October 30.)

(No. 137. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Belgrade, October 3, 1882.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 86, Confidential, of the 3rd May, reporting the circumstances under which Aali Bey, the Turkish Vacouf Commissioner, had been summoned to Constantinople, I have the honour to transmit a copy of a despatch, Secret, of the 1st instant, from Mr. Vice-Consul Baker, reporting the arrival at Nisch of Aali Bey's successor, Ismaïl Bey, and his proceedings in the Commission, in conjunction with his Servian colleague, M. Rayevitch.

I have, &c.
(Signed) SIDNEY LOCOCK.

Inclosure in No. 30.

Vice-Consul Baker to Mr. Locock.

(Secret.)
Sir, *Nisch, October 1, 1882.*

THE successor of Aali Bey as Turkish member of the Turco-Servian Vacoufs Commission, Ismaïl Bey, arrived here a week ago, and attended the first meeting of the Commission, as at present constituted, yesterday.

2. I have good reason to know that Ismaïl Bey is altogether dissatisfied with the proceedings of his predecessor, which, indeed, were directed chiefly to the attainment of personal ends, and amongst them to cultivate popularity with the Servian Government, with the view of obtaining ultimately the post of Envoy Extraordinary to Belgrade.

3. Ismaïl Bey has invited the serious attention of his Servian colleague, M. Rayevitch, to several matters which he considers infringements of the rights of the Porte under the Treaty of Berlin.

4. Aali Bey, whose extravagance often led him into debt and pecuniary difficulties, entered into a sort of informal arrangement that he should receive a portion of the proceeds and revenue of Vacouf property, and the Servian authorities the remainder; and, under this arrangement, Aali Bey appropriated to personal purposes about 700 ducats of Vacouf moneys. But Ismaïl Bey repudiates entirely this arrangement or understanding, or whatever it was, and protests that, under the Treaty of Berlin, the proceeds and revenues of Vacouf, and State property, belong to the Porte; and that the Commission has the exclusive right to control them, without any interference on the part of the Servian authorities; and he has proposed to his Servian colleague that all moneys arising in any way from Vacouf or State property shall be deposited in a bank to the credit of the Commission, and shall be incapable of being withdrawn therefrom except by cheques signed by both members of the Commission.

5. Ismaïl Bey proposed the Bank of Constantinople, M. Rayevitch the Bank of Belgrade, and ultimately the former, whilst contending that the funds are the absolute property of the Porte, modified his proposal by offering to consent to deposit the funds in any solid bank in any city outside Servian territory. This proposal has been accepted *ad referendum*.

6. The Turkish Commissary has also protested against the sales which up till now have been effected of Vacouf and State property, without the consent or knowledge of the Turkish Representative, and his colleague has "taken note" of this protest.

7. At the time of the occupation of the Nisch district by the Servian troops, there was a number of Crown debtors in such district, some of whose debts have been collected by the Servian authorities. Ismaïl Bey protests that all Crown debts due at the moment of the Servian occupation belong to the Porte, and claims an account of all moneys received by the Servian authorities in respect of such Crown debts (which are chiefly debts due to the Ministry of Vacoufs).

8. The Servian member of the Commission has demanded proof of the Turkish Government's title to the Vacouf and State properties, but Ismaïl Bey, whilst conceding this demand as far as regards private houses and the like, protests against it so far as regards public buildings, such as military barracks, mosques, &c.

9. On the whole, it appears that Ismaïl Bey is determined to insist on all the rights of the Porte, under the Treaty of Berlin, with respect to Vacouf and State property, and that his demands may lead to difficulties with the Servian Government, especially as it has been accustomed to the lax proceedings of Aali Bey.

I am, &c.
(Signed) A. BAKER.

No. 31.

Mr. R. Kennedy to Earl Granville.—(Received October 30.)

(No. 84.)
My Lord, *Sophia, October 17, 1882.*

WITH reference to my despatches Nos. 80 and 83 of the 23rd ultimo and 7th instant, I have the honour of inclosing copy of a despatch which I have received from the British Vice-Consul at Rustchuk on the subject of the position in Bulgaria of its Mussulman inhabitants.

There can, I think, be no doubt, judging from Mr. Dalziel's statements, and from the reports recently furnished on the subject by Mr. Vice-Consul Brophy, as well as from what I have learnt from some of my colleagues here, that, although there still exists, and probably always will exist, feelings of mistrust and dislike between the Mussulman and Christian sections of the population, the active persecution of the former by the latter, to which attention was drawn in the spring, has almost entirely ceased. This result may partly be attributed to the remonstrances addressed by Mr. Lascelles, before his departure, to the Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs, which, in pursuance of your Lordship's instructions, were, subsequently, on several occasions repeated.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ROBT. J. KENNEDY.

Inclosure in No. 31.

Vice-Consul Dalziel to Mr. R. Kennedy.

Rustchuk, October 12, 1882.

Sir,

ON the 1st June I commenced to draft a despatch referring to my telegram of the 29th May and the continued oppression of the Mussulman population.

Various circumstances, however, caused me to delay it, and in the interval it would appear that the orders which were issued from Sophia have been obeyed, and that, in fact, active persecution has ceased.

One must not, however, fancy that the Mussulman has been placed on an equality with the Christian; on the contrary, he has much to complain of, though he is not shot down right and left.

If there is a case of brigandage, and brigandage has been on the increase, the police arrest Turks; though the fact is that it is the Turk who suffers most from it, and if they were the chief brigands we should expect to find the Bulgar the sufferer. This state of things must continue until the time when the Prince feels that he must lean on the Mahommedan population for that support which he can never get from the Christian.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. H. DALZIEL.

No. 32.

Mr. R. Kennedy to Earl Granville.—(Received October 30.)

Sophia, October 19, 1882.

(No. 85.)

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to state that, towards the end of September last, M. Vulcovitch, Minister for Foreign Affairs, proceeded to Constantinople, in order to endeavour to arrange the vexed question between the Porte and the Principality as to the position of the Bulgarian Agent at Constantinople. The Bulgarian Government, I am informed, is willing that its Agent should treat with the several Departments of the Porte those matters which properly concern each Department, provided that in political questions he should correspond direct with the Ministry for Foreign Affairs; and the Prince's Government is also prepared to recognize powers of attorney granted to their respective Agents by absentee Mussulman landed proprietors which have been legalized by the Ottoman Minister of Justice. A difficulty, however, arose, in consequence of M. Vulcovitch having requested the Ottoman Government to state their definition of the term "affaires politiques," which, according to his Excellency, means questions of principle and of public interest that can only be properly treated between two Governments. The Porte not having yet signified its acceptance of this interpretation, the position of the Bulgarian Agent at Constantinople remains unsettled, and Mussulman absentee landowners are still unable to take the necessary measures for claiming and disposing of their properties.

M. Vulcovitch, who has been at Rustchuk during the visit to the Prince of Bulgaria of His Majesty the King of Servia, has, I am informed, again proceeded to Constantinople, probably with the view of coming, if possible, to a definite solution of the question.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ROBT. J. KENNEDY.

No. 33.

Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville.—(Received October 30.)

Salonica, October 17, 1882.

(No. 22.)

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for the information of your Lordship, copy of the Report which I have this day addressed to the Earl of Dufferin, relative to the decrease of brigandage in Epirus and Macedonia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 33.

Consul-General Blunt to the Earl of Dufferin.

My Lord,

Salonica, October 17, 1882.

MY Austro-Hungarian colleague, M. de Montlong, having read me a letter of his Vice-Consul at Cavalla, stating that numerous bands of Bulgarian brigands had recently invaded Turkish territory, and perpetrated serious depredations among the peaceable inhabitants in the districts of the Sandjaks of Drama and Serres, I applied to Mr. Acting Vice-Consul Pecchioli at Cavalla, and Mr. Capety, my correspondent at Serres, for information on the subject.

I have now the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship the copies of their replies.

The Kaïmakam of Cavalla, to whose misconduct Mr. Pecchioli refers, has been dismissed by the Vali of Salonica, Ghalib Pasha.

The Kaïmakam of Vodina, a Circassian by birth, has also been dismissed by his Excellency, and is to be tried for extortion.

Other similar defaulters have been eliminated from the Local Administration, and I am glad to say that the firm, upright, and conscientious action of Ghalib Pasha has produced among all classes in the public service, especially in the Revenue Department, a better sense of their duties and responsibilities.

As regards public tranquillity, it is gratifying to be able to report that the whole province is freer than usual from brigandage and crimes of violence. This is more especially the case in the districts near the Thessalian frontier.

The scourge of brigandage has also sensibly diminished in Epirus and the Vilayet of Cossova, but bands of marauders and cattle-lifters continue to alarm and trouble the inhabitants of the Vilayet of Monastir.

I have also the satisfaction to report to your Lordship that Ghalib Pasha continues to maintain very cordial relations with Aleko Pasha in all questions affecting the East Roumelian frontier.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 2 in No. 33.

Acting Vice-Consul Pecchioli to Consul-General Blunt.

(Extrait.)

Cavalla, le 8 *Octobre*, 1882.

J'AI reçu votre honorée du 28 Septembre, et je m'empresse d'y répondre.

Pour ce qui concerne les nouvelles données par le Vice-Consul d'Autriche de Cavalla, à son chef de Salonique, elles sont très exactes et concordent avec mes informations sur les Comités Slaves.

Ces Comités sont, paraît-il, parfaitement organisés et bien pourvu d'argent, que leur fournit le Comité Central de la Bulgarie.

Ils savent, du reste, en ramasser eux-mêmes par les continuelles rançons qu'ils font sur les voyageurs.

Les soldats Turcs qui ont la mission de les battre fraternisent le plus souvent avec les bandes, ou au moins échangent des mots mais pas de coups de fusil.

Le Gouverneur de Drama, à ce qu'il paraît, s'amuse à faire la guerre aux tableaux historiques qui représentent les épisodes des guerres Russo-Turcs ou les récents événements d'Égypte.

Notre Caïmacam de Cavalla continue à faire la guerre au Consulat Grec, violant le domicile des Hellènes, et les mettant arbitrairement en prison. Sa conduite aussi continue à être très blamable.

Inclosure 3 in No. 33.

Letter from Consul-General Blunt's Correspondent at Serres.

M. le Consul-Général,

Serres, le 12 *Octobre*, 1882.

EN réponse à votre lettre du 28 écoulé, je m'empresse de vous soumettre le rapport suivant sur l'état du brigandage dans le Sandjak de Serres.

Il y a de cela une vingtaine de jours une bande composée d'une soixantaine de brigands armés de fusils Martini, Peabody et autres armes, a fait une incursion dans ce sandjak du côté de Razlog et Djouma, sous le chef brigand Zembil.

Les membres de cette bande sont à très peu d'exceptions tous des gens du pays et pour la plupart Bulgares, anciens pâtres, laboureurs, des gens désœuvrés et de la pire espèce.

Zembil est aussi originaire de ce pays; il est de Vroudié. Connu ici comme brigand et rien de plus, il est venu cette fois-ci avec une Proclamation au peuple Bulgare de la Macédoine leur faisant savoir qu'il est chargé de l'exécution du Traité de San Stéfano. La Proclamation fait appel aux sentiments de délicatesse et de patriotisme des Bulgares pour fournir à lui, Zembil, de l'argent, et indique même Doubnitza, petite ville en Bulgarie et près de la frontière du côté de Djouma, comme endroit où l'argent doit être versé.

Il est positif que le but de Zembil n'a été et n'est autre chose qu'un vil brigandage, et qu'il a cherché à se donner une couleur politique par cette Proclamation, qu'il aurait dévalisé quelque part, ou quelque Agent des Comités Bulgares lui aurait donné dans le but de la faire propager pour pouvoir opérer plus noblement.

Mais à peine Zembil a-t-il passé la frontière que les autorités militaires Ottomanes se sont mis à sa poursuite, lui ont tué plusieurs personnes et l'ont forcé de rentrer avec le reste de sa bande dans le pays d'où il était venu. Avant l'entrée de Zembil, Kukulis, un autre chef des brigands, avait passé la frontière avec une vingtaine de brigands, tous habitants des villages de ces environs, et de toutes les nationalités.

Kukulis aussi a été rigoureusement poursuivi par les troupes et forcé de rentrer en Bulgarie.

Voilà les bandes Bulgares qui ont passé et repassé la frontière cette année.

Outre ces bandes Bulgares, dont le maintien dans ce pays a été chaque fois de courte durée, il y a d'autres bandes, composées de quatre à huit individus, qui font le petit brigandage dans les montagnes des environs de Serres, du côté du nord, et dans le district de Zihna, pour se venger de leurs compatriotes et des gens qui les employaient autrefois dans leurs villages.

Ils entrent quelquefois dans des villages, comme dernièrement dans Sfilino, où ils ont capturés quelques personnes, mais ordinairement c'est en s'embusquant dans des endroits, dont ils ont une parfaite connaissance, qu'ils attendent le passage des gens dont ils veulent se venger.

Outre ces bandes, qui sont deux ou trois, il n'y en a pas d'autres.

En général, la sûreté publique dans ce sandjak, en comparaison avec celle des années précédentes, s'est essentiellement améliorée.

Avec seulement un peu plus d'énergie de la part du commandement, la tranquillité serait parfaite.

J'ai, &c.
(Signé) COSTO. CAPETY.

No. 34.

Consul Freeman to Earl Granville.—(*Received October* 31.)

Serajevo, October 23, 1882.

(No. 37.)

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that the reforms in the administration of this province elaborated by M. Kállay will come into force on the 1st November. They more especially have reference to the functions and attributes of the Departmental and District Authorities ("Kreisbehörde" and "Bezirksbehörde").

I have not yet been able to obtain a copy of the regulations and instructions issued on the occasion, and which were approved by the Emperor so long ago as the 29th July. This was only, however, announced in the local official Gazette of the 6th instant. As soon as I can obtain a copy I will forward it to your Lordship. In the meantime I will endeavour to give shortly, as far as I have been able to ascertain them, the chief points of the regulations.

The District Authority ("Bezirksamt") will conduct all administrative, financial, and judicial matters, except those expressly reserved for other Departments. The District Authority will also perform the functions of a District Court, and will likewise be entrusted with the collection of taxes, the administration of forests, and the execution of public works. This Authority will depend directly on the Departmental

Authority ("Kreisamt") in all administrative and financial affairs, but not in judicial matters.

The Prefect of the district ("Bezirksvorsteher") will be assisted by a permanent Native Council ("Medjliss").

The Prefect will have the right to dispose of the services of all his subordinate officials as he may think necessary, without regard to their special duties.

The functions of the District Authority comprise:—

1. Administrative duties.
2. Communal affairs.
3. Military matters.
4. Public works and roads.
5. Sanitary matters.
6. Religion and education.

The District Authority is to be in constant communication with the population, and to keep the Departmental Authority fully informed of all that occurs. It is charged with the execution of all laws and regulations, and the maintenance of public order, and is authorized to employ coercive measures when necessary. Should military assistance be needed, it must apply to the Departmental Authority; only in very extreme cases can it resort to military assistance on its own responsibility. In the event of any public calamity, all the District Authorities are bound to place their services at the disposal of the Prefect.

The District Authority has also the control of the rural and all other police.

All police offences, other than criminal ones, will be punished by the District Authority as a Court of First Instance, but appeal can be made to the Departmental Authority. It will, also, as a Court of First Instance, decide all disputes between landowners and their "knets." It is likewise the duty of the District Authority to watch over and assist the Communal Authorities, and, more especially, in the maintenance of peace and order.

The District Authority will also see that all recognized religions are allowed free exercise, and no hindrance caused to the observance of feast days; but at the same time must take care that religious ceremonies are not turned to illegal purposes.

The District Authority will also exercise a certain supervision over all schools, private as well as public, denominational as well as secular, both as regards the manner and matter of instruction, and as regards their sanitary state.

In financial matters it is the duty of the District Authority—

1. To co-operate in the cadastral survey of the country.
2. To assist in the estimation of the house, property, and income tax.
3. To assess the direct taxes.
4. To estimate the amount of any permanent or temporary damage to taxable produce.
5. To enforce the payment of arrears of taxes.
6. To propose, when it may appear necessary, the remission or reduction of taxes, or a term of delay.
7. To fix the stamp duties.

The tax office ("steueramt") of the district will be held directly responsible for the collection of all rates and taxes, and their transmittal to the Government chest, including taxes on quarries and forest revenues, &c., and will likewise have the charge of all Government deposits, judicial or otherwise.

Either the Prefect ("Bezirksvorsteher") or a District Assistant ("Bezirks adjunkt") will be charged with the judicial functions of the district.

In certain places, sub-Prefectures ("Bezirksexposituren") will be established by the Government. They will depend in all matters on the authority of the district, and will be capable of performing all the functions of a District Authority except financial and judicial ones.

The Departmental Authority ("Kreisbehörde") conducts all administrative and financial affairs, except those expressly reserved by the Local Government ("Landes regierung"). The Departmental Authority will have no regular judicial employés, its duty being rather to guide and direct the District Authorities. All district and sub-district officers are directly subordinate to the Departmental Authority. All employés of the Department are subordinate to the chief officer ("Kreisvorsteher").

All officials of the taxation, forest, sanitary, public works, and other special Departments employed in the Department ("Kreis"), belong to the staff of that Department, and are responsible each in his own sphere.

All communications between the District Authorities and the Government at

Serajevo will be through the Departmental Authority, whose duty will be to see that the orders and instructions of the Government are properly carried out. It must also be on the watch for and put down all faults and abuses and neglect of service. It must keep the Local Government informed of all that occurs. It is also responsible for the maintenance of all roads and bridges, and must inform the Government when repairs are necessary. It will act as a Court of Second Instance in all agrarian disputes, as well as in all other matters decided by the District Authorities. Special regulations will be issued regarding the duties of the Departmental Authority in matters of trade and commerce.

The "Kreisvorsteher" is especially charged with the supervision of all matters connected with taxation, and is to take care that no abuses are committed; but he will have the assistance of a tax inspector.

Your Lordship will perceive that all administrative functions are centred in the person of the "Bezirksvorsteher," or chief officer of the district. The idea may appear good at first sight, as a means of simplying the government of the country, but I doubt considerably whether it will work well. The duties imposed on the "Bezirksvorsteher" are too numerous and multifarious for any one man to fitly discharge. He will require the services of one or more assistants, according to the extent of his district, and this will only increase the already heavy expenses of administration. Also all specialists, such as engineers, forest inspectors, and others who hitherto depended directly from their several Departments at the chief seat of government, are not at all pleased at being subordinated to a "Bezirksvorsteher," and I fear that want of harmony will only too often exist.

The Departmental Authority ("Kreisbehörde") and the "Kreisvorsteher" will apparently do little else than direct and supervise the District Authorities, and will serve as a channel of communication between these latter and the Government at Serajevo.

In general, the expenses of the Civil Government of the country have been increased rather than diminished, as was hoped, by the changes introduced by M. Kállay, nor as yet is any simplification of the administration evident. The universal complaint is that matters are even going worse than a few months ago, and some of my colleagues who have many subjects in the province, and are, therefore, in frequent official communication with the authorities, declare that the disorder and confusion in the administration at present is beyond belief, and that the most trifling affairs drag on interminably.

The Consular officers placed at the head of affairs are, of course, strange to their duties at first, and will, perhaps, eventually get affairs into better order; but they take no real interest in the country, dislike their work, and, although highly paid, look forward with impatience to the time when they can return to their Consular and diplomatic posts. The minor officials of the administrative career, and more especially those who aspired, perhaps, to the high posts themselves, are not much pleased at having these highly-paid intruders, as they consider them, placed over their heads, and would in only too many cases, I fear, be rather glad were they to fail. Then, the great power given to the Civil Adlatus is not viewed with much satisfaction by the military party, and I hear already of friction and ill-feeling between the civil and military authority.

Baron Nicolics does not seem to have retained the favourable opinion at first entertained of him by the orthodox population. They probably expected, on his part, too great a bias in their favour. Although of Servian extraction and of the Orthodox religion, he is above all a Hungarian magnate and essentially Magyar in his proclivities.

The public opinion seems to be that matters are only going from bad to worse, and it is confidently predicted on all sides that the present régime will not last six months longer. It is most sincerely to be desired that these predictions may not prove correct, for the country can never prosper under these ever-changing experiments of administration. Should the present system collapse, there remains nothing to be tried but a purely military Government. This is hardly, perhaps, to be desired now, but it is what Austria should have undoubtedly begun with. An honest, simple, but strict Administration was needed in this country at first, and such an Administration, I believe, could have been best carried on by military officers—men who only regard their duty are, as a rule, strangers to intrigue and faction, have nothing to gain or lose by being temporarily charged with administrative functions, conduct affairs in a plain, straightforward, and expeditious manner, and who certainly are better liked by the natives than the Austrian civil officials.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWD. B. FREEMAN.

No. 35.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(Received November 2.)

(No. 89.)
My Lord, *Scutari, October 20, 1882.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 88 of the 16th instant, I have the honour to report that the Chiefs of the tribes of Gruda and Hotti have arrived here, and have been in frequent and close communication with the Vali, and that it is said they have informed his Excellency that they have learnt from a source which they consider trustworthy, that an arrangement is about to be come to between the Porte and Prince Nicholas for the cession of the districts of Gruda, Hotti, and Castrati, in exchange for that of the Kraïna, on the western shore of Lake Scutari. The Chiefs have added that, at a recent meeting held by their tribes to discuss the impending change, it was decided to resist to the utmost, as in 1880, the smallest cession of their mountains to Montenegro.

The cordial reception accorded to the Chiefs by Abdi Pasha confirms me in the hope that the former are merely trafficking on his proneness to believe in Montenegrin hostile designs, and his desire to establish at Constantinople a reputation for vigilance. The following considerations, however, prevent the summary rejection of the existence of the asserted negotiations:—

1. Several natives of the Kraïna, who are gardeners and guards at Yeldiz Kiosk, are reported to exercise great influence over the Sultan, and, if such be the case, they necessarily must depict to His Imperial Majesty the greater importance of their district, which is inhabited almost exclusively by Mahommedans, over the territories of the Roman Catholic frontier clans.

2. Although the Montenegrins overran the Kraïna district during the war in 1877, yet they have never attempted to occupy it in a permanent manner in accordance with the Treaty of Berlin; nor have they levied taxes or exercised in it any other sovereign rights. On the contrary, the Turkish authorities of Scutari, whilst avoiding a visible jurisdiction, have secured an apparent voluntary continuance of the payment of taxes to the Vilayet Treasury, through a tacit understanding that the market of Scutari would be closed to the Kraïna under any other conditions.

3. Prince Nicholas is aware that an attempt to coerce the Kraïna might give the signal for the revolt of the whole of his newly-acquired territories, and that in that event he could not count upon a very strict observance of neutral obligations by the Turkish authorities. Under these circumstances, His Highness is determined not to raise the question of his rights over the Kraïna until a more favourable opportunity.

4. This, however, does not probably prevent the Prince from bringing forward, each time the Turkish Envoy discusses with the Montenegrin Government the definitive settlement of frontiers, his readiness to exchange the Kraïna, and to remind the Turks that they have no legal hold over the district.

5. I have known for some time past that the Montenegrin Government, under Russian military advice, considers that the possession of Podgoritza cannot be deemed permanent until the frontier of the principality is that traced in the Corti Convention of April 1880, and that, therefore, steps should be taken for obtaining, sooner or later, that frontier.

As the foregoing points unfortunately give some colour to the reported negotiations, I will, whilst abstaining from troubling your Lordship with a repetition of all the arguments used by me at the time against the Corti Convention, venture to record the conviction that absolutely nothing has since occurred to remove the then existing objections to a surrender of the premier tribes of North Albania to Montenegro.

Should, therefore, the proceedings of the mountain Chiefs be less mercenary than I am disposed to believe, and not be guided by suspected foreign influences, serious complications could only be prevented from arising here by a peremptory veto being placed on all contemplated changes of existing frontier arrangements.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 36.

Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville.—(Received November 4.)

E

(No. 24.)

Salonica, October 22, 1882.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that the Turkish Commission for the delimitation of the recently-disputed localities on the Thessalian frontier arrived here from Constantinople on the 18th instant, and started next day for Selvidjé, the head-quarters of the Commander-in-chief, Redjeb Pasha, from whom they will receive their final instructions.

The Commission is composed of Major Raïf Effendi, Adjutant Husni Effendi, and Onik Effendi Minadjian.

I am assured by persons who have recently come here from Caterina, that tranquillity prevails on the Greco-Turkish frontier.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

No. 37.

Consul Reade to Earl Granville.—(Received November 4.)

(No. 13.)

Corfu, October 28, 1882.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship, herewith inclosed, copy of a despatch I have received from Vice-Consul Onofrio, of Santa Maura, reporting latest intelligence as to the aspect of affairs in the district of Arta, connected with the agrarian question.

I have, &c.

(Signed) R. READE.

Inclosure in No. 37.

Vice-Consul Onofrio to Consul Reade.

Santa Maura, October 21, 1882.

Sir,

THE firmness shown by the Hellenic Government in dealing with the Arta agrarian agitation, has produced, so far, a healthy effect in certain districts. No fresh outrages have of late been perpetrated; and in some villages there are already signs of a conciliatory disposition. Two villages near Arta which but a short time ago had been foremost in rejecting any compromise whatever with M. Carapanos, the principal landlord concerned in the matter, are now reported to have agreed to accept his proposal, reducing the "imóren" of 30 per cent. to 20 per cent., and it is confidently anticipated that other villages in the Tzumerka district will likewise agree to these terms.

It cannot yet be said, however, that the agitation has been thoroughly overpowered, or that it is a "thing of the past." The agitators are sparing no efforts in arousing the peasants to the highest pitch of expectation, and in leading them to believe that perseverance in their attitude will ultimately secure the aims of the movement. It will be remembered that the movement aims at nothing short of the abolition, root and branch, of landlordism in the district, on the alleged plea that it was by an arbitrary interpretation and application of the Ottoman laws in force at the time of the acquisition, that the present landlords came into possession of the lands in question; M. Pákys and his legal advisers maintaining that Article 130 of the Ottoman Code, providing that "lands adjoining an inhabited village cannot be transferred to one person exclusively, nor can they be converted into 'tchifliks,'" is applicable to the present case, and they, therefore, conclude that M. Carapanos and others similarly placed, "acquired these lands unlawfully; and that such lands should, according to the Ottoman law, revert, by right, to the peasants who have cultivated them in succession from father to son, and cannot be subjected but to a simple land tax to the Government."

Whatever the merits or demerits of such teachings may be, no wonder that

M. Pakys should gain popularity, not only in his own district, but also among the masses in Epirus, where the same interpretation might one day be appealed to with respect to lands similarly conditioned.

I understand that the judicial authorities at Arta have decided that M. Pakys should appear before the Correctional Tribunal at Corfu to take his trial upon the charges alluded to in my despatch of the 9th ultimo.

I have, &c.

(Signed) F. ONOFRIO.

No. 38.

Consul Freeman to Earl Granville.—(Received November 6.)

(No. 38.)

Serajevo, October 28, 1882.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 36, Political, of the 21st instant, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that the insurgents from these provinces and Crivoscie, about 2,000 in number, who were interned at Niksić, effected their evasion on the 23rd instant, taking with them, it is said, their arms, and re-entered the Herzegovina.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDWD. B. FREEMAN.

No. 39.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received November 6.)

(No. 522. Confidential.)

Pesth, October 30, 1882.

My Lord,

MR. CONSUL FREEMAN, by his despatch to your Lordship No. 36 of the 21st instant, reported upon the present state of Bosnia and the Herzegovina, enumerating the bands of insurgents and brigands still in arms.

Nearly identic statements, known to have been derived from Cettinjé, having appeared a short time ago in the Vienna newspapers, M. de Kállay directed the Governor-General to send him an accurate and detailed report upon every band, whether of insurgents or of brigands, and of every collision that had taken place during the last two months, and this Report, dated the 24th instant, his Excellency has had the goodness to read to me.

That General Appel, in writing to his Minister, should endeavour to make the number of those against whom he has to act smaller than he supposes them to be is not to be supposed, for the consequence of his favourable reports is that the strength of the garrisons is being reduced, but his accounts differ most materially from those which appear to have been furnished to Mr. Freeman.

The men under the Chief Salko Forta, put by Mr. Freeman at 600, are stated to number at the utmost about eighty, and the leader himself is believed to be preparing to give himself up.

The band of 400, mentioned by Mr. Freeman as being under a certain Kurtovic, and the 500 said to occupy the defiles of Bileh Nevesinje and Gasho are in reality insignificant knots of brigands who do not molest the troops or patrols.

The different encounters that have taken place during September and October are enumerated in General Appel's Report, and of these only three can be regarded as having been with insurgents—the largest band of which consisted of fifty, the second of about thirty.

These encounters took place close to the Montenegrin frontier, and one of them occurred the day following the withdrawal of a Montenegrin frontier post; the others were more in the interior of the country, not with insurgents, but with small bands of ordinary brigands, numbering from seven to fifteen.

M. de Kállay quite concurs with Mr. Freeman in holding that the insurrection would soon entirely die out if deprived of external support, but the professional brigands in whom the country abounds will not quickly abandon their trade.

The discrepancy between Mr. Freeman's Report and that of General Appel may, perhaps, be explained by the supposition that the former regards as forming part of

insurgent bands all those who have not made their submission, and these M. de Kállay admits to number above 2,000—at which Mr. Freeman estimates the insurgents still in arms, but they are merely lying scattered concealed in the woods, where bands of several hundreds could not possibly exist without coming out to districts where they would speedily fall in with the military.

M. de Kállay mentioned to me a curious circumstance which may merit being repeated to your Lordship, as a proof of the ease with which a wild and ignorant people, animated by strong feelings of nationality and patriotism, may be led into desperate enterprises.

M. de Kállay, who speaks the language of the country, during his late visit to it had at different times several of the insurrectionary leaders who had been pardoned brought before him, and to his question of how they came to embark in such a hopeless attempt they all returned the same answer.

They had, they said, been assured that England, Russia, and Turkey were about to attack Austria, and that the time was therefore good for them to strike a blow for themselves.

M. de Kállay said he had been unable to detect any Russian agency fomenting the insurrection, excepting the presence in Montenegro of some of the people who had been sent from Bulgaria by M. Hitrovo with Russian passports, and, as far as the Turks were concerned, he could only recognize the perfect correctness of their behaviour.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 40.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received November 6.)

(No. 525.)
My Lord, *Pesth, November 1, 1882.*

THE Government have been questioned in the Committee of the Hungarian Delegations respecting the existing relations with Montenegro.

Count Kálnoky replied that they were generally good, though there were occasional episodes which created some difficulty.

The only troublesome question was that relating to the fugitive Herzegovinian insurgents; but the Prince was desirous of a satisfactory solution of it, seeing that a good understanding with Austria-Hungary was what is most desirable for him, although it was rendered difficult for him by the temper of the people, who, till the Treaty of Berlin, had no recognized position, and had had for centuries to sustain a fight for existence.

M. de Kállay observed that, as he would have another opportunity of speaking of the affairs of Bosnia and the Herzegovina, he would now confine himself to a few remarks upon the occurrences on the frontier, for all accounts left it beyond doubt that the population of Montenegro were a factor of which the effects are still felt in the southern portions of the Herzegovina.

His Excellency declared that a very strong sentiment of local patriotism is to be found in that country, where the people are proud of being Herzegovinians, and have no wish to be annexed to Montenegro.

The origin of the great influence exercised over them by Montenegro was to be found in the former relations of the Turks with the Principality, the Herzegovinians having on all occasions taken part against the Ottomans.

Another circumstance was that there is no natural frontier between Montenegro and the Herzegovina, one half of a village of ten being in the former, and the other half in the latter, so that the fugitives could always keep up their communications with those of their associates who remained at home.

He, like the Minister for Foreign Affairs, was convinced of the good-will of the Prince, who sooner or later would succeed in taming his people, and he hoped that in a short time many of the fugitives would return.

His Excellency gave some of the information from General Appel's Reports, with which I have already acquainted your Lordship, and mentioned the astonishment with which he had found that the insurgents had been giving implicit faith to the most absurd tales, such, for instance, as the conclusion of an alliance against Austria-Hungary between Great Britain, Turkey, and Russia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 41.

E *Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(Received November 8.)*

(No. 90.)
My Lord, *Scutari, October 28, 1882.*

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship, in connection with my despatch No. 89 of the 20th instant, that the Montenegrin Government has found it expedient, in order to defend its borders near Podgoritza against the daily increasing incursions of the Albanian mountaineers, and which the Turkish authorities appear quite incapable of preventing, to settle about 100 families from the neighbouring Montenegrin districts of Koutchi and Pipéri in the frontier plain of the Zeta.

A decision which had, furthermore, been come to by the Montenegrin Government to permit this newly-formed border population to resort to reprisals has, I fear, borne fruit within the last two days, in the decapitation of a clansman of Gruda, as a set-off for the murder of the Montenegrin shepherd reported in my despatch to your Lordship No. 75 of the 4th ultimo.

The deliberate manner in which Prince Nicholas has permitted the adoption of measures which must quickly lead to a return of the constant hostilities which formerly existed on the Albano-Montenegrin frontiers ought to make the Porte understand that such a state of things is not likely to turn out to its advantage.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 42.

E *Mr. Lascelles to Earl Granville.—(Received November 13.)*

(No. 90.)
My Lord, *Sophia, November 2, 1882.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose a copy of a despatch which I have received from the British Vice-Consul at Varna, reporting a fresh case of brigandage which occurred in the neighbourhood of that town on the 21st ultimo, and calling attention to the increase in the emigration of the Mussulman population from Bulgaria, in consequence of the martial law for the suppression of brigandage being brought to bear exclusively upon Mussulmans.

I shall take an early opportunity of speaking to M. Vouloviteh on this subject, but shall not be able to do so before the departure of this messenger.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRANK C. LASCELLES.

Inclosure in No. 42.

Vice-Consul Brophy to Mr. Lascelles.

Sir, *Varna, October 24, 1882.*

I HAVE the honour to report that a fresh case of brigandage occurred last Saturday, the 21st instant, on the main road from Varna to Hadji Oghlou Bazardjik, not far from a village called Sari Gueul, about 15 miles distant. Official and other trustworthy accounts do not quite tally; but the main facts are that a band of brigands, eleven to fifteen in number, dressed as Turks, stationed themselves at a guard-house on the road, and after rendering themselves masters of its occupants, two Bulgarian gendarmes, waylaid and robbed of money six to nine horses, and some of the best weapons, all those who passed by that spot during the whole of the day, the numbers of whom—chiefly Turkish peasants returning with their carts from market—are variously stated from 150 to 250, and in this way realizing from £ T. 200 to £ T. 600.

Their plans seem to have been well laid, all the persons robbed being prevented by them from continuing their journey. The official version says by being imprisoned in the guard-house; but this seems to me unlikely, as no guard-house that I have seen in those parts would contain anything like even 150 persons, and they do not appear to have personally maltreated the people stopped by them; on the contrary, they seem to have been actuated by a certain sense of humour, as they made the gendarmes

and a soldier they likewise captured assist them in rifling the persons of their victims and afterwards in preparing coffee for these latter.

The alarm was at length given to the neighbouring villages by a Tartar, who succeeded in escaping, although shots were fired after him; but before the villagers could turn out the brigands had decamped, and were far away, crossing, as it is supposed, but not ascertained, the Roumanian frontier. The band was probably composed of both Turks and Bulgarians, the latter being in the majority.

The estimate I gave in my despatch of the 28th ultimo regarding the number of Mussulman emigrants who will have shipped from Varna up to the end of this year, will probably be exceeded, as whole Turkish villages are being deserted by their inhabitants, the result being brought about, as I have stated in that and other despatches, mainly by the machinery of the martial law being brought to bear upon the Mussulman population exclusively, although the Bulgarian element furnishes at least its proportionate contingent of members to brigandage, from which the Mussulman peasants are nearly the sole sufferers.

Without going into details of ill-treatment and arbitrary exactions, I will merely state that two villages in this immediate neighbourhood, Haladji and Rousslar, are being abandoned *en masse*, fines of 13,000 piastres and 300 fr. having been inflicted, and soldiers quartered upon them, on the accusation of complicity in brigandage.

Ministerial and other utterances to the contrary, it is evident to anybody watching the course of events in Bulgaria during the last three years, that the Bulgarian Government has more or less persistently promoted the emigration of the Mussulman element, some of the leaders of their public opinion being honestly of the opinion that the existence of 300,000 to 400,000 Turkish inhabitants in their midst is a possible source of danger to the State, while the bulk of the Bulgarian people wish to see them depart out of the country, in order that they may possess themselves of the lands, houses, &c., left behind by the emigrants; for these reasons it may be safely taken for granted that the Bulgarian authorities, if left to themselves, will not rest until, *per fas et nefas*, nearly the entirety of the present Turkish inhabitants have been forced to leave the Principality.

The almost inevitable future lot of the Turkish families thus abandoning their old homes is pitiable in the extreme, for owing to the incapacity of the Turkish Government to take effective measures for establishing themselves as agricultural settlers in the Asiatic provinces, it is difficult to see how the majority of them can fail to fall victims to hunger and disease.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. G. BROPHY.

No. 43.

Saïd Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(*Communicated to Earl Granville by Musurus Pasha, November* 15.)

Constantinople, le 31 *Octobre,* 1882.

M. l'Ambassadeur,

J'AI l'honneur de transmettre, ci-joint, à votre Excellence, la traduction d'un Takrir adressé à la Sublime Porte par le Patriarcat Œcuménique de Constantinople, exposant les griefs de la communauté Orthodoxe contre les autorités de la Roumanie.

Je prie votre Excellence de vouloir bien porter de nouveau les faits mentionnés à la connaissance de M. le Principal Secrétaire d'État au Foreign Office. Nous ne doutons pas que son Excellence ne veuille bien faire parvenir au Gouvernement Roumain des représentations propres à l'amener au respect des stipulations du Traité de Berlin, qui a assuré à toutes les communautés se trouvant dans la Principauté le libre exercice de leur culte.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) SAID.

Inclosure in No. 43.

The Œcumenical Patriarchs of Constantinople to Saïd Pasha.

Excellence, *Constantinople, le* $\frac{13}{25}$ *Septembre,* 1881.

PAR leur note en date du $\frac{13}{25}$ Avril, année courante, les Soussignés ont eu l'honneur de soumettre à votre Excellence les considérations auxquelles donnait lieu l'attitude du Gouvernement Roumain dans la question des monastères dédiés. Votre Excellence a pu sans doute apprécier à sa juste valeur la conduite du Cabinet de Bucarest depuis la naissance de ce conflit et particulièrement à partir du Congrès de Berlin. La manière dont il accueillit les démarches pacifiques et conciliantes des communautés et l'indifférence qu'il opposa à l'appel que la Sublime Porte fit aux hautes décisions internationales qui ont prescrit la solution définitive de cette question, ne laissent aucun doute sur sa persistance dans l'injustice commise à l'égard des Saints-Lieux et sur le peu de cas qu'il fait des hautes décisions Européennes. Il est clair que, d'une part, cet état de choses prolonge indéfiniment la situation pénible des communautés, tandis que, d'autre part, les aliénations continuelles d'immeubles conventuels opérées par le Gouvernement Roumain ne laisse pas que de créer de nouvelles complications qui sont loin de faciliter dans l'avenir la solution de ce différend.

La confiance inébranlable qu'ils ont dans la sollicitude incessante de Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan, notre gracieux Souverain, en faveur de la cause des Saints-Lieux, autorise les Soussignés à renouveler respectueusement leurs instances auprès de votre Excellence. Dans l'espace de près de quatre ans à partir du jour où la question des monastères dédiés est entrée dans sa phase actuelle il n'a été que trop constaté que s'en remettre pour le réglement de ce différend à la bonne volonté du Gouvernement Roumain c'est en reculer indéfiniment la solution.

Heureusement les principes de justice qui ont toujours inspiré les Grandes Puissances Signataires du Traité de Paris et du Congrès de Berlin est la garantie la plus sûre et la plus précieuse des droits imprescriptibles des Saints-Lieux, et l'adhésion de la plupart des Cabinets Européens à la mise à exécution des décisions du Traité de Paris et du Congrès de Berlin, proposée par la Sublime Porte par sa Circulaire du 21 Août, 1881, ne permet aucun doute sur l'unanimité des Grandes Puissances pour l'effectuation de l'arbitrage. A l'avis des Soussignés il appartient donc au Gouvernement Impérial de Sa Majesté le Sultan de prendre l'initiative pour procéder d'un commun accord avec les autres Puissances à l'institution de l'arbitrage.

Excellence, les Soussignés sont pénétrés de la conviction que la Sublime Porte ne saurait voir d'un œil indifférent l'état déplorable de dénûment où un acte d'injustice a jété les Saints-Lieux d'Orient, placés sous le sceptre de Sa Majesté Impériale. C'est à ce titre qu'ils viennent de nouveau implorer l'assistance et la protection du Gouvernement Impérial et, par son intermédiaire, celle des Grandes Puissances. Ils supplient votre Excellence de vouloir bien hâter la mise à exécution des mesures que dans sa haute sagesse elle jugera les plus à propos pour l'institution de l'arbitrage.

Agréez, &c.
(Signé) JOACHIM, *Patriarche de Constantinople.*
GERASSIMOS, *Métropolitain de Skythopolis, Représentant du Saint Sépulcre et des Patriarches d'Alexandrie et d'Antioche.*
ARCHIMANDRITE PORPHYRIUS, *Représentant de l'Archevêque de Sinaï.*

No. 44.

Prince Ghica to Earl Granville.—(*Received November* 15.)

E

M. le Comte, *Londres, le* 14 *Novembre,* 1882.

J'AI l'honneur de porter à la connaissance de votre Excellence que l'Agent Diplomatique de Son Altesse le Prince de Bulgarie a adressé dernièrement à mon Gouvernement une proposition à l'effet d'instituer une Commission, composée de Délégués des deux États, qui serait chargée de fixer, d'une manière définitive, la ligne de frontière entre le territoire Roumain situé sur la rive droite du Danube et la Bulgarie, en procédant à son bornage.

M. le Ministre des Affaires Étrangères de Roumanie vient de m'informer qu'il a déclaré, au nom du Gouvernement du Roi, cette proposition, en se basant sur

l'Article XLVI du Traité de Berlin, qui a décidé que la ligne-frontière entre les deux pays sera fixée par une Commission Européenne; le Gouvernement du Roi, a ajouté le Ministre dans sa réponse à l'Agent de Bulgarie, n'ayant encore reçu aucune communication concernant les travaux de cette Commission, ne saurait empiéter sur des droits que les Puissances Signataires du Traité de Berlin se sont réservés, et dans cet état de choses, le maintien du *statu quo* sur la ligne de frontière, établie de fait, s'impose naturellement aux deux Gouvernements.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) JON GHICA.

No. 45.

Said Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(*Communicated to Earl Granville by Musurus Pasha, November* 17.)

E
(Télégraphique.) *Constantinople, le* 16 *Novembre*, 1882.

LES dernières informations parvenues à la Sublime Porte signalent les préparatifs militaires Monténégrins sur les frontières. Quoique le Gouvernement Princier affirme n'avoir acheté que 200 caisses de cartouches destinées à remplacer d'anciennes munitions détériorées, nos autorités limitrophes constatent cependant une grande activité dans ces préparatifs. Le Monténégro concentre même des troupes en vue d'une marche sur Kolaschino.

Cette situation ne laisse pas que de provoquer une grande agitation dans les esprits de nos populations, et pourrait amener, si elle se prolongeait, des conséquences fâcheuses qu'il est de l'intérêt de tous de prévenir.

Veuillez signaler ce qui précède au Gouvernement auprès duquel vous êtes accrédité, et l'engager instamment à faire parvenir sans retard à Cettigné des représentations propres à faire cesser les préparatifs susmentionnés.

No. 46.

Consul Reade to Earl Granville.—(*Received November* 18.)

(No. 15.) *Corfu, November* 10, 1882.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith inclosed a further despatch from Vice-Consul Onofrio, of Santa Maura, respecting the agrarian question in the district of Arta, which may be found to be interesting; the more so as Mr. Onofrio's Report can be thoroughly relied upon.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. READE.

Inclosure in No. 46.

Vice-Consul Onofrio to Consul Reade.

Santa Maura, November 4, 1882.

Sir,

WITH reference to my despatch to you of the 21st ultimo, on the subject of the agrarian question in the Arta district, I have the honour to report that the latest news from that quarter give a less favourable report of the state of affairs than might be expected from the conciliatory disposition which had begun to manifest itself some weeks ago among the peasantry in certain villages, when it was confidently anticipated that the question would soon solve itself amicably.

M. Carapanos addressed a short time ago a Circular to his tenantry urging them to abandon their attitude of resistance, and intimating that he was prepared to reduce the 30 per cent., "inoron," hitherto levied to 22 per cent. for lands on the plain, and to 20 per cent. for those situated on the mountain sides of Tzumerka and Radovisi; making, however, this reduction, as well as sundry other concessions to his tenants, conditional upon their signing new contracts recognizing his rights of possession. Some of the peasants, perceiving the futility of further resistance in view of the firm determination of the Government not to lend themselves to subversive legislation, nor

to commit themselves to any promise, or act incompatably with the international obligations of Greece, came forward and agreed to M. Carapanos' terms. The bulk, however, of the peasantry still remain under the influence of the agitators, by whom they are urged to reject any compromise whatever with the landlords. These too credulous people are, moreover, told that the days of the present Government are numbered, and that it will soon be replaced by the opposition, which is well-disposed towards the peasantry, and which will command a Parliamentary majority prepared to redress agrarian grievances, or in other words, to promote legislation abolishing landlordism in the new provinces.

The policy—if I may so call it—of the agitator is thus self-evident: to lure the credulous masses in the district into extravagant expectations so as to gain them over to their own party in view of future Parliamentary elections; while, on the other hand, captivating the masses in Epirus from which the elements of discontent, as well as the fighting contingent, will have to be recruited when the time comes for attempting to carry into effect the "Grecia Irredenta" schemes with regard to Epirus. There can, therefore, be little doubt that, all things considered, the promoters of this agitation have every interest in keeping it alive as long as possible as a factor serving a double purpose, and which may yet become a source of immense trouble to the Government.

The outcome of the proceedings now pending before the Corfu Court of Appeal against M. Paky's and his associates (fourteen in number), charged with having fomented the peasantry against the landlords, and with inciting resistance to the law, is looked forward to with great interest. The Judicial Council at Arta having decided upon the preliminary investigation of the charges brought against the said parties, decreed that it was not a case of felony as urged by the Public Prosecutor, but of misdemeanour, and that it should, therefore, be dealt with by the Correctional Tribunal; but the Arta Advocate Fiscal has appealed to the Corfu Court of Appeal against the said decision of the Judicial Council, holding the case to be one of felony, and, therefore, amenable to an Assize Court. It would appear, from all I can gather, that the Government are particularly desirous, on political grounds, to have this interesting case dealt with with just severity; evidently, in order to show that they are determined not to tolerate attempts to subvert the order of things as established by Treaty. Meanwhile M. Pakys is retained here in custody, and his associates are in prison at Arta.

2. It is also reported that a destructive fire broke out some days ago on the other side of the Arta bridge, destroying some 5,000 olive trees, besides a considerable number of other fruit trees and vines, all belonging to Artans. Suspicions are rife, but according to some versions, it would appear that the origin of the conflagration was accidental.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRANCIS ONOFRIO.

No. 47.

E *Mr. Egerton to Earl Granville.*—(*Received November* 18.)

(No. 179.)

My Lord, *Athens, November* 11, 1882.

THE Commissioners named by Greece and Turkey signed three days ago at Turnavo, in Thessaly, a Protocol arranging the manner in which the evacuation of the Greek territory is to be conducted. The Commissioners will travel from east to west, and to-day or to-morrow the evacuation of Karali-Derbend should take place.

This delay in commencing the evacuation has not solely proceeded from the Ottoman side; the Greek Commissioners were unwilling to take responsibility, and referred home for instructions in minor matters of detail. This has wasted time.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWIN H. EGERTON.

No. 48.

Mr. Wyndham to Earl Granville.—(*Received November* 19, 7·15 P.M.)

(No. 452.) *Constantinople, November* 19, 1882, 7 P.M.
(Telegraphic.)

I HAVE received a telegram from Captain Jones, dated Philippopoli, the 17th instant, stating that a Secretary of the Russian Embassy here had arrived, and has had an interview with Aleko Pasha, at which he insisted on the cession of the three former demands concerning the purchase of arms, church in the Shipka Pass, and a Russian as Chief of the Staff.

M. Krebel has arrived here.

French Ambassador informed me last night he had recommended concession as to church and purchase of small quantity of arms, as reported in my despatch No. 1038 of the 13th instant.

I should be glad if your Lordship would inform me by telegraph if my language, as reported, is approved.

No. 49.

Mr. Wyndham to Earl Granville.—(*Received November* 20.)

E
(No. 1036. Confidential.) *Constantinople, November* 11, 1882.

My Lord,

M. CRESPIN, Private Secretary to the Governor-General of Eastern Roumelia, has recently arrived at Constantinople with a view, I believe, of laying before the Representatives of the Great Powers the difficult position in which his Excellency is placed by the demands and intrigues of M. de Krebel, the Russian Consul-General at Philippopoli.

He called upon me yesterday, with a letter of introduction from Captain Jones, and explained to me the various points on which he said M. de Krebel was insisting, and with which Aleko Pasha considered it contrary to the interests of the province to comply. First, he said, he was pressing for permission to erect a church at Shipka, in memory of the officers and men who had fallen there during the late war, that he had presented plans for a building with walls of great thickness, cellars in which vast quantities of arms might be stored, and cells for monks, which constituted a series of block-houses, the cost of which edifice, it was estimated, would amount to about 3,000,000 fr. Second, that he continued to demand the dismissal of the present Chief of the Staff, Colonel de Constan, a French officer, and the appointment of a Russian officer in his stead. Third, that he required that the Government of Eastern Roumelia should purchase 70,000 or 80,000 Berdan rifles.

He also complained of the manner in which M. de Krebel and his agents had interfered in the elections, and of their intrigues throughout the province in order to make Aleko Pasha so unpopular as to render his continuance in the office he holds impossible; and he asked my advice as to the course the Governor-General should pursue under these difficult circumstances, and particularly as to what he should do in the event of disturbances taking place in Eastern Roumelia.

With regard to the church at Shipka, I replied that I did not think exception could be taken to the erection of a sacred building in memory of the officers and men who had fallen there, provided it was really a church, to cost a reasonable sum, and not a fortress in the guise of a church.

As to the other points, I observed that I presumed the people of Eastern Roumelia were aware of what was passing in Bulgaria, and that I did not think Her Majesty's Government wished to see the province fall under similar influence, and that it appeared to me that Aleko Pasha should continue to do his best to withstand any endeavours with that object on the part of the Russian Agent.

With reference to repressing disturbances, I remarked that the Treaty of Berlin provided a remedy; but M. Crespin said that Aleko Pasha would rather resign than have recourse to it.

I concluded my remarks to M. Crespin by recalling to his memory that Aleko Pasha had had an interview with Her Majesty's Ambassador but a short time ago, and that therefore as to advice from Her Majesty's Embassy, his Excellency had better be guided in the meantime by the language which the Earl of Dufferin had

held to him on that occasion, and which had met with the approval of Her Majesty's Government.

I should add that M. Crespin told me that he had seen M. Nelidoff, the Russian Minister here, who had informed him that M. de Krebel was to be removed from his present post; but that, before his departure, the Government of Eastern Roumelia should grant the concessions he demanded.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

No. 50.

Mr. Wyndham to Earl Granville.—(*Received November* 20.)

E
(No. 1038. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, November* 13, 1882.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 1030, Confidential, of the 11th instant, M. Crespin called upon me again this morning, when I told him what I had reported to your Lordship, adding that in offering any remarks as to the course it might be advisable for Aleko Pasha to pursue, I, of course, meant it to be understood that his Excellency would so manage matters with regard to Russia as not to bring about a crisis; and that he would, as far as possible, avoid wounding her susceptibilities.

M. Crespin said he perfectly understood that; and he then informed me that he had seen Baron Calice, the Austrian Ambassador, who had recommended that the Governor-General should not yield to the demands of Russia, and had said that his Excellency would do better to resign rather than accede to them, but he added that Austria-Hungary was not so deeply interested in the affairs of the Balkan Peninsula as was generally supposed, and that in the event of Russia pouring troops into Eastern Roumelia she would not take up arms to prevent her doing so; that there were other Powers—England and France—who had greater interests at stake in those parts than she had. He then said that he had seen M. de Nouilles and Count Corti, who had both recommended that Aleko Pasha should so shape his course as not to bring about too great a state of tension in his relations with the Russian Agent, and that M. de Nouilles had expressed indifference as to the nationality of the officer who might fill the post of Chief of the Staff, provided always it was not held by a Russian. He has not seen M. de Radowitz, but he appears to have been advised by M. Testa, who has been Acting German Chargé d'Affaires for a short time, that the Pasha should try, if possible, to make some concession as to the church at Shipka.

M. Crespin also stated that he had seen M. Nelidoff, who had assured him that M. de Krebel was to be removed from his present post, which he (M. Crespin) said would cause much satisfaction at Philippopoli; but he added that the Russian Minister had again urged most strongly the advisability of the purchase of the Berdan rifles.

M. Crespin told me that he thought three concessions might be made to Russia, viz.: to grant permission for the erection of a mortuary chapel at Shipka, as contemplated in the 17th Protocol of the Treaty of Berlin, the purchase of a limited number of Berdan rifles, and the renewal of the contracts of the Russian non-commissioned officers for another year; but he said that it would be impossible to concede the demand of the Russian Government that a Russian officer should be appointed Chief of the Staff.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

No. 51.

Mr. Wyndham to Earl Granville.—(*Received November* 20.)

(No. 1039.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, November* 14, 1882.

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that on the 26th ultimo the Sultan issued an Iradé for the formation of three Commissions, to be severally charged with the elaboration of the financial, judicial, and administrative reforms to be introduced into the Ottoman Empire.

The first of these Commissions meets at the Sublime Porte under the presidency of

Akif Pasha, the President of the Council of State. Among its members are the Minister of Finance, the Director-General of the Indirect Contributions, and two German officials in the employ of the Ottoman Government, namely, Wettendorf Effendi, Under-Secretary of the Department of Finance, and De Bertram Effendi, Secretary of the Administration of the Indirect Contributions.

Its object is to make a thorough investigation of the actual Budget, and to take into consideration the various resources which may be made available for increasing the revenues of the Treasury.

The President of this Commission did not conceal from me that their task was surrounded by the greatest difficulties.

The second Commission, which is to formulate the reforms which it may consider necessary for the improvement of the judicial system and the Law Courts, meets under the presidency of the Sheikh-ul-Islam. It is composed of the Minister of Justice, and most of the high judicial authorities of the Empire, together with several functionaries of the Ulema class. The fact of its being under the presidency of the Sheikh-ul-Islam proves that the Commission will take into its consideration the Chery, or Mussulman Law, as well as the "Medjellé" (Mussulman Civil Law) and the Ottoman Civil and Criminal Law, which is taken principally from the French Code.

The third Commission is to consider the reforms necessary for the development of commerce, agriculture, and public works. It meets under the presidency of Hassan Fehmi Pasha, the Minister of Public Works, and is composed of the Under-Secretary of that Department, who is a German, Raif Effendi, the Director-General of Public Works, M. Galland, a French engineer, and several other functionaries connected with the same Department.

The Sultan having expressed a wish to be furnished, as soon as possible, with the result of their labours, the three Commissions have met every day since their nomination; and I am informed that within a few days their respective reports will be sent in to the Council of Ministers, who, after having examined them, will submit them to the approval of His Majesty the Sultan.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

No. 52.

Mr. Wyndham to Earl Granville.—(*Received November* 20.)

(No. 1040.) *Constantinople, November* 14, 1882.
My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to state that I have been informed that the Ottoman Government has decided to proceed with the delimitation of the Montenegrin frontier, and that the Turkish Representatives abroad will shortly receive instructions to invite the Powers to designate the Commissioners they wish to take part in the labours of the Mixed Commission.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

No. 53.

Mr. White to Earl Granville.—(*Received November* 20.)

(No. 85.) *Bucharest, November* 15, 1882.
My Lord,

THE Government of the Bulgarian Principality have of late made repeatedly representations here as to the inconvenience arising from the frontier between the two countries on the other side of the Danube (Dobrondja) being still considered as not definitely settled, and they have suggested that some arrangement should be come to between the two conterminous States; but the Roumanian Ministers have replied that the decision of the Powers on this subject never having been notified to them under the Treaty of Berlin, they are determined to leave matters *in statu quo* until such time as the Signatory Powers think proper to move in the matter.

When the Prince of Bulgaria came here some weeks back His Highness urged the necessity of some such arrangement, and the Russian Legation here has pressed the matter on the attention of the Roumanian Government since, but all hitherto without any definite result.

In reply to some observations of mine, your Lordship was pleased, as long ago as the 24th February last, to call my attention to the fact that the frontier of Roumania and Bulgaria had been accepted by His Majesty the Sultan on the 20th August, 1881, in accordance with the recommendations of the Boundary Commission and with the modification subsequently introduced about Arab-Tabia.

Owing to some unexplained cause, the decision of the Powers has, however, not been carried out. Bulgaria complains of the inconvenience arising from this delay. Russia suggests, informally, a private arrangement between the two States. Roumania declines to take any action unless called upon to do so by the Signatory Powers.

I have considered it my duty to bring these circumstances to your Lordship's notice.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 54.

Mr. Wyndham to Earl Granville.—(*Received November* 20, 11 P.M.)

(No. 453.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, November* 20, 1882, 2 P.M.

WITH reference to my despatches Nos. 1030 and 1037 of the 11th and 13th instant respectively, I have been misinformed as to language held by Austrian Ambassador. His Excellency says that he stated to Aleko Pasha's Private Secretary that, so long as the Governor-General held to the basis of the Organic Statute for Eastern Roumelia, he would have the moral support of the Powers who co-operated to form the province; but that he could not advise him to bring about too great a state of tension in his relations with Russia, and that, if he provoked difficulties with her, he could not rely upon the support of the Austro-Hungarian Government.

I have not been able to see his Excellency upon this subject till to-day.

No. 55.

Said Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(*Communicated to Earl Granville by Musurus Pasha, November* 21.)

E
(Télégraphique.) *Constantinople, le* 17 *Novembre*, 1882.

LA Sublime Porte a décidé de faire procéder à la délimitation et au bornage des frontières Monténégrines, sauf certains points en contestation réservés à un arrangement ultérieur.

La partie de la frontière qui s'étend de Voina jusqu'à Planitza a été déjà délimitée par la Commission *ad hoc*.

Il s'agit aujourd'hui d'effectuer la fixation et le bornage définitif du reste de la frontière comprenant les sections de Planitza-Sekulare et de Sekulare-Malkovitz. La première partie, qui commence au delà de Planitza et aboutit à Sekulare, n'ayant pas été fixée encore, le bornage n'en a pas eu lieu. Quant à la dernière, elle a été arrêtée sans que toutefois le bornage définitif ait pu s'effectuer, les Commissaires ne s'étant pas rendus sur les lieux. Ce sont ces travaux qui doivent être exécutés.

Les Délégués Ottomans ont reçu ordre de partir pour Sophia d'Albanie.

Veuillez faire les démarches pour obtenir que les Délégués Anglais soient invités à aller prendre part aux travaux dont il s'agit.

No. 56.

E *Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.*—(*Received November* 22.)

(No. 92.)
My Lord, *Scutari, November* 2, 1882.

THE Turkish document, of which I have the honour to transmit herewith a French translation, was presented to me on the 19th ultimo by a deputation of six Mahommedans, representing all the signers to the document, who are the most influential and impor-

tant of the Moslem refugees in Scutari, from the towns and territories apportioned to Montenegro under the Treaty of Berlin.

Identical documents to the one received by me were communicated in the same manner, on the same day, to the Governor-General of Scutari and to the Austrian, French, Italian, and Russian Consuls.

A formal complaint of the non-fulfilment by Montenegro of the terms of the XXXth Article of the Treaty of Berlin is the substance of the statement drawn up by these refugees.

I believe there is sufficient foundation for their complaint to have made it quite unnecessary to cumber it with matter that can in no way facilitate a settlement. It would have, therefore, been better had the Turkish Government seen its way to bring the shortcomings of Montenegro to the notice of the Powers itself, rather than permit the first step to be taken by irresponsible refugees through the Consular Body at Scutari.

The indictment of the refugees being summarized in the document itself into five points, I am enabled to pass over all the other matter as immaterial, and to thus avoid heeding malevolent allusions to the superiority of Mussulmans over Christians and the poverty of the Montenegrins, or examining into the truth of incidents said to have occurred within the last few months.

Point No. 1 demands that the Mussulman proprietors who have withdrawn from Montenegro shall have full liberty to administer themselves, or through others, whether Montenegrins or foreigners, their property, real or otherwise, in the Principality.

This is in accordance with the first paragraph of the XXXth Article of the Treaty of Berlin; and it is true that the Montenegrin Government declines to allow Mussulman proprietors who have withdrawn beyond the frontiers of the Principality to return either occasionally or daily to their lands, or to have them looked after by others than Montenegrin subjects. The hardship thus inflicted on the proprietors is great; but the Montenegrin Government justifies itself on political grounds, asserting that it cannot assist the Turkish Government to form new centres of Mahommedan populations on the edges of the Principality, living on the produce of the latter, and still keeping themselves apart from it. The town of Tousi is a case in point. It has arisen since the cession of Podgoritza, and through its considerable Mussulman population and the Turkish fortifications, and garrison maintained there, has become a serious menace to Podgoritza. The refusal, however, to permit refugees to employ other agents than Montenegrin subjects is less justifiable, and an exception could safely be made in favour of agents who are natives of Albania. The Prince fears that Austrians or other foreigners might be selected as agents, and that he might thus find himself in controversy with Governments whom he dares not displease; but, as all foreigners resident in Montenegro are subject to its laws, the fear ought to be groundless.

Point No. 2 calls for the right of sale of real property to foreigners, as well as to natives of the Principality.

Your Lordship has already expressed the opinion that this is a just claim, and, under your Lordship's instructions in despatch No. 15 of the 30th March, 1881, I endeavoured to induce Prince Nicholas (*vide* my No. 86 of the 24th July, 1881) to reconsider a law which had abolished the privilege which had been accorded through Prince Danilo's Code to aliens to hold real property in Montenegro. But I, equally with my Austrian colleague, who had similar instructions to my own, failed to obtain the desired repeal. The Prince explained that certain districts adjoining the Bocche di Cattaro had, through the improvidence of his mountaineers, passed into the possession of Austrian subjects residing over the border, and that his Government had been obliged, at a considerable sacrifice to itself, to enforce the repurchase of these districts, as it had been found that the Austrian subjects who held Montenegrin land were frequently disposed to question the jurisdiction of the Montenegrin authorities. Prince Nicholas believes that if the law was relaxed in favour of Mussulmans who wish to withdraw from the Principality, he would be unable to resist the pressure of the Austro-Hungarian Government to once more allow foreigners indiscriminately to acquire real property in the Principality.

The third point demands that the Representatives of the Powers in Montenegro should watch over the interests of the absentees and Mussulman residents, and shield them from vexations inflicted under cover of the laws of the country.

The two first points essentially embrace the chief demand formulated in the third point. The claim to be watched over by the Representatives of the Powers in the Principality would naturally be resisted by the Prince, and although it cannot be denied that arbitrary and unjust acts are occasionally committed by Montenegrins

against the Mussulmans, yet it equally cannot be refuted that an appeal to His Highness or to the Central Administration at Cettinjé would be certain not to go entirely ignored. In an extreme case, I presume, the aggrieved Mussulman could always count upon the friendly intervention of some one of the foreign Representatives.

Point No. 4, in requiring that the Montenegrin Government should be informed of the sense and spirit of Article XXX of the Treaty of Berlin, is, in fact, a repetition, in other words, of the preceding demands.

In point No. 5 a very serious question is raised. It calls for the appointment of a Mixed Commission to settle the accounts of the complainants since they came under Montenegrin jurisdiction up to the present time. On various pretexts, some just and others the reverse, the authorities of the Principality assumed the administration of most of the estates and property of the Mussulmans who withdrew or were already absent from Montenegro, refusing, as a rule, to acknowledge the agents and even tenants left in charge. A nominal quarter of the revenues of these estates and properties has been offered to the owners—and, in many instances, accepted by them—on the plea that half the yearly revenue was given to those who had assumed the cultivation of the estates, while the other quarter defrayed the Government's expense for supervision. There is no likelihood that the Montenegrin Government would consent to allow itself to be controlled by a Mixed Commission, therefore some other way ought to be sought to remedy the *quasi* confiscation of revenues which its administrative measure has inflicted on so many of the Mussulmans.

The complainants terminate their statement by a distinct threat that, if their demands do not receive the prompt attention of the Powers, whom they hold responsible for the wrongs suffered by them, they will, in despair, avenge themselves, at all hazards, on Montenegro.

It is here that the error of having permitted the refugees to take the initiative in bringing forward their complaint against the Principality becomes apparent. If the Porte can prove that it has not been behind the scenes in this matter, its authorities in Scutari and Representative in Cettinjé would certainly not be able to do so; furthermore, the refugees are very likely to lose patience—for they receive but scanty help for subsistence from the Ottoman Government—and to act up to the threats which they have put forth with official connivance.

(Confidential.)

I cannot hold out much hope that a formal representation to Prince Nicholas, based on the present complaint, would have a favourable result, unless it was made in a collective manner, and this, I presume, would not be easily attainable, as the ways of receiving the rights of Mussulmans who have come within the terms of Article XXX of the Treaty of Berlin are, apparently, most diverse.

I think, however, that the Porte could still substitute itself in the place of the refugees as complainant, thus removing the appearance of menace from the proceeding, and then, after elucidating the rights of the Mussulmans in question, most justly call upon the Powers to assist it in securing those rights, without the strict observance of which Montenegro cannot pretend to a legal tenure of its new territories.

Bonâ fide support given to the Turkish Envoy at Cettinjé by even only one or two of the other foreign Representatives there could not be easily disregarded by Prince Nicholas, especially if those Representatives were acting under instructions which did not appear to have been evoked by themselves, but had been issued at the instance of the Porte, and under a high sense of the responsibilities of Treaty engagements.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

Inclosure in No. 56.

Mahommedan Refugees from Montenegro to Mr. Kirby Green.

(Translation.)

M. le Consul-Général, *Scutari, le 5 Octobre*, 1298 (1882).

NOUS, Soussignés, émigrés de Podgoritza, Spouzi, Jabliak, Duleigno, Antivari, Niksich, et autres habitants des localités dernièrement cédées à la Principauté du Monténégro, nous nous trouvons obligés de vous exposer ce qui suit.

L'Article XXX du Traité de Berlin reconnait nos droits de propriété sur nos

terrains, et n'admet point que l'autorité Monténégrine, substituée à celle du Gouvernement Impérial, y apporte un changement. Tout au contraire, il nous garantit la jouissance de nos droits fonciers aux mêmes conditions que par le passé. Malheureusement, dès que le Monténégro a pris possession de notre pays, il a méconnu nos droits de propriétaire, ce qui du reste est prouvé par la continuité de sa voie de conduite qui ne nous est que très nuisible. Il est de notoriété publique que les moyens de subsistance Monténégrins étaient bien restreints avant la guerre ; dans le but donc de nous faire renoncer à nos biens, ils ont fait usage de toutes les ruses, et après nous avoir contraints à émigrer, nos biens immeubles, dont les titres de possession datent depuis de longues années, furent pris par les Voïvodes comme s'ils en eussent été les propriétaires légitimes ; même les meubles appartenant à quelques-uns d'entre nous eurent le même sort. Certains d'entre nous dépourvus de ressources, et par suite obligés de vendre leurs terres, se virent dans la dure nécessité de les céder avec une perte de 99 pour cent.

Maintes fois nous avons adressé des plaintes pour réclamer contre les injustices dont nous sommes victimes journellement, mais elles sont restées sans effet.

L'autorité Princière tout en faisant proclamer, d'une part, que les émigrés, conformément au Traité de Berlin, jouissent du droit de posséder, et que tous ceux qui rentreraient seraient mis en possession de leurs biens, enjoint de l'autre, tant aux individus auxquels elle a confié nos propriétés qu'à ses fonctionnaires dans les différents districts, de maltraiter les émigrés qui rentreraient pour faire valoir leurs droits. Néanmoins, l'émigration nous ayant réduits à la misère nous avons dû nous résigner à toutes les machinations du Gouvernement Monténégrin dont les Capitaines et les Voïvodes maltraitent et frappent même les hommes que nous envoyons pour surveiller nos biens-fonds.

La Légation Impériale Ottomane à Cettigné nous a communiqué en 1297 une Proclamation du Gouvernement Princier, par laquelle Son Altesse le Prince Nicholas faisait droit à nos justes réclamations, décrétait que le quart du produit de nos terres nous serait payé, et qu'en outre une indemnité nous serait également comptée pour les dommages occasionnés à nos maisons et à nos boutiques ; qu'à partir de cette époque il nous serait permis de choisir à notre gré des colons, avec lesquels nous pourrions traiter directement pour la culture de nos terres, soit pour le quart, le tiers, ou la moitié de la récolte, suivant la qualité des terrains, et que désormais nous n'aurions plus à nous plaindre. Ces promesses ne furent pas en tous points tenues. Il est vrai que cette Proclamation attira grand nombre d'entre nous, et que nous nous résignâmes à faire cultiver nos terres dans les conditions susénoncées, mais les Monténégrins, profitant de notre absence, mirent nos récoltes dans des magasins de dépôt, ce qui ne nous permit pas de connaître le produit exact de nos terrains ; et de plus, nous déclarèrent que nous n'avions pas droit au quart ; puis remirent une minime quantité, non à nous, propriétaires des terrains, mais aux colons, auxquels ils donnèrent ordre de laisser cette quantité exposée dans les champs, dans le seul but de la faire pourrir ; c'est ainsi qu'ils agissent. La dîme a été augmentée d'un sixième. (Il résulte des calculs faits que les impôts que nous avons payés dépassent les bénéfices que nous pourrions retirer de nos immeubles.) Or, puisque nous sommes obligés de supporter de semblables pertes, il est naturel que nous renoncions à nos propriétés. Pourtant, comme le plus grand nombre d'entre nous se trouve dans des conditions défavorables, nous nous décidâmes à accepter, les yeux fermés, la petite quantité du produit de nos terres que les Monténégrins consentirent à nous donner, espérant un meilleur succès pour les années suivantes, et nous prîmes des mesures pour labourer, bon gré, mal gré, nos terrains. Ce que voyant les Monténégrins nous déclarèrent que nous ne pouvions ni les labourer ni les administrer par nous-mêmes, et que si nous agissons de la sorte nous serions considérés comme sujets Monténégrins, que nous devions nommer pour procureurs des sujets locaux. Par cette injonction ils tendaient à nous faire savoir que depuis ce jour nous étions sur le même pied d'égalité.

Nous nous permettons de vous faire remarquer, d'abord, que vu notre état d'indigence il ne nous est pas possible de nommer des fondés de pouvoirs ; qu'en second lieu, quand même nous les nommerions nous ne pouvons avoir en eux confiance, attendu que leur ligne de conduite envers nous ne saurait être autre que celle suivie par les autorités. Cela est même reconnu par les Monténégrins eux-mêmes.

Les difficultés que l'on nous crées n'ont d'autre but que de nous laisser, et de nous contraindre à céder nos propriétés à vil prix. La dépréciation de nos biens-fonds doit être attribuée à la prétention émise par les Monténégrins que, conformément aux lois de la Principauté, personne ne peut posséder s'il n'est sujet local. Cette loi n'est qu'une chimère, et qu'une ruse établie par le Gouvernement afin de s'emparer plus

facilement de nos biens. Néanmoins, en présence de tous ces faits, nous résolûmes de séjourner dans notre pays natal, cherchant à retirer n'importe quel petit bénéfice de nos propriétés. Nous réclamâmes les loyers de nos maisons et de nos boutiques dans lesquelles les Monténégrins s'étaient établis ; non seulement ils nous les refusèrent, mais nous firent comprendre qu'ils n'évacueraient les maisons et les boutiques qu'ils occupaient qu'après y avoir demeuré plusieurs années, en compensation des réparations qu'ils y avaient faites pour ne pas les laisser tomber en ruines. Il est vrai que sur nos demandes réitérées quelques maisons furent remises à leurs propriétaires légitimes ; mais depuis il leur a été impossible de trouver un locataire, parce que l'autorité, tout en laissant croire que nous pouvions disposer de nos immeubles à notre guise, menace les locataires qui désireraient habiter nos maisons, et, par conséquent, la vente aussi bien que la location de nos immeubles nous sont interdites.

L'exposé ci-dessus prouve jusqu'à l'évidence que les Monténégrins n'ont épargné aucune mesure pour nous soustraire tous nos biens avec notre pays natal. Une partie de ces mesures a été mise en vigueur dès l'époque de l'évacuation jusqu'en 1297, et l'autre de 1297 jusqu'à ce jour. Elles sont si frappantes aux yeux qu'une faible attention suffit pour comprendre le but que ces mesures visent.

À l'appui de nos dires, nous croyons nécessaire de citer les faits suivants qui ont eu lieu ces derniers temps.

Un de nos compatriotes de Goloboffchi, le nommé Suleiman Ibrahim Hogich, s'étant rendu il y a six mois dans cette dernière localité pour réclamer son droit auprès des Monténégrins, y fut égorgé, et son cadavre transporté en deçà de la frontière, où il fut enseveli ; un autre, de Podgoritza, fut blessé dans sa vigne par un Monténégrin ; un troisième fut tué ; enfin, un quatrième, accompagné de sa femme et de son fils, s'étant rendu avec un chariot à sa propriété, pour percevoir le quart de la récolte de ses terres, reçut un coup de fusil du colon chargé de les travailler.

Les derniers temps surtout et précisément à l'époque des récoltes et des vendanges, l'autorité Monténégrine, saisissant le prétexte d'une question de sang qu'un des nôtres avait avec des montagnards Albanais de la frontière, fit emprisonner une centaine de nos compatriotes qui se trouvaient à Podgoritza pour surveiller leurs récoltes, et leur fit subir mille misères pendant leur détention ; ensuite elle leur interdit de surveiller leurs propriétés jusqu'à ce que cette question de sang et autres aient été réglées, et de plus, ils furent expulsés et envoyés à Scutari. Des explications ayant été demandées sur cette manière d'agir, le Gouvernement Princier répondit que cette mesure avait été dictée par la nécessité de prévenir un conflit imminent entre nous et les montagnards de Gruda, et qu'elle avait été prise dans l'intérêt même des émigrés, tandis que nous savons fort bien que ce sont les Monténégrins qui ont provoqué les montagnards de Gruda.

Par les faits que nous venons d'exposer il est évident que nos droits sont méconnus et foulés aux pieds. Si nous nous adressons aux autorités Monténégrines elles nous répondent : "Vous n'auriez pas dû émigrer ; ne voyez-vous pas que ceux qui sont restés sont tous à leur place ?"

L'émigration a eu lieu dans tous les pays du monde pour différents motifs. Est-il équitable de nous considérer comme des coupables parce que nous avons émigré ? Si les Puissances Signataires du Traité de Berlin n'avaient pas pris en considération cette circonstance, auraient elles mentionné dans le Traité que les habitants des localités cédés au Monténégro pouvaient librement quitter le territoire cédé ? Le Monténégro cherche à prouver à l'Europe que l'état de misère auquel nous sommes réduits n'est dû qu'à l'émigration, et que ceux de nos compatriotes qui n'ont pas suivi notre exemple sont heureux. Mais ces derniers sont assujettis à des souffrances sans fin ; eux aussi n'hésiteraient pas un instant à abandonner leurs foyers, mais ils n'osent et ne peuvent le faire, et attendent que la Providence vienne à leur aide.

Les propriétés que nous avons abandonnées sont suffisantes pour le moment à l'entretien des Monténégrins qui ne voient, par conséquent, pas la nécessité de contraindre le restant de nos compatriotes à émigrer.

Tout homme consciencieux ne saurait méconnaître les injustices dont nous sommes l'objet, en comparant notre état avec l'esprit de l'Article XXX du Traité de Berlin.

Toutes ces circonstances nous ont obligés de vous entretenir assez longuement et de réclamer justice, ainsi que le règlement définitif des points suivants :—

1. Liberté d'administrer nos biens meubles et immeubles, soit par nous mêmes, soit par des tiers, étrangers ou non.
2. Liberté de vendre nos propriétés, soit aux étrangers, soit aux indigènes.
3. Ne pas permettre que, conformément à la loi intérieure, nous soyons en but à

des vexations, mais qu'au contraire notre surveillance puisse s'exercer dans nos affaires, en vue du respect dû à la signature de la Puissance que vous représentez.

4. De bien faire comprendre au Gouvernement Monténégrin le sens et l'esprit de l'Article XXX du Traité de Berlin, et de nous mettre à l'abri des injustices.

5. De faire nommer une Commission Mixte, chargée de régler ce qui nous est dû depuis l'an 1294. Car, nous nous permettons de vous faire remarquer, que vous aussi, vous êtes responsable de la manière arbitraire dont nos biens meubles et immeubles sont administrés par les autorités du Monténégro.

Nous n'ignorons point, d'ailleurs, que le Monténégro doit tout ce qu'il possède à l'appui qui lui a donné la Russie et à l'aide que lui ont prêté les autres Puissances. Nous sommes donc persuadés que ces mêmes Puissances peuvent améliorer notre sort en agissant auprès du Gouvernement de la Principauté. Mais si par malheur les droits incontestables que le Traité de Berlin nous accorde sont méconnus et foulés aux pieds, nous nous verrions dans ce cas dans la pénible nécessité de chercher par nous-mêmes à y porter remède. Nous nous déclarons formellement que la responsabilité des incommodités graves qui pourraient découler de cet état de choses tombera sur vous, car le désespoir est arrivé à son comble, et nous voyons d'un bon œil la mort. A ce sujet nous n'avons rien de plus à dire, et nous nous remettons à l'esprit de justice qui vous caractérise.

Un exemplaire de la présente requête a été adressé à tous les Représentants des Puissances Signataires du Traité de Berlin ainsi qu'à notre Gouvernement Impérial.

Nous avons l'honneur, &c.

(Here follow 27 seals.)

No. 57.

Earl Granville to Mr. Wyndham.

(No. 631.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, November* 25, 1882, 6·20 P.M.

YOUR language reported in your despatches Nos. 1030 and 1038 of 11th and 13th November approved.

We concur in advice given by French Ambassador, subject to the precaution that plans for mortuary chapel in Shipka Pass shall be submitted and agreed upon, so as to prevent the building of a fortress under the guise of a chapel.

It is not desirable that Chief of the Staff in Eastern Roumelia should be a Russian

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No. 58.

Earl Granville to Mr. Wyndham.

(No. 699. Ext. 631.) *Foreign Office, November* 25, 1882.

Sir,

I HAVE received your despatches Nos. 1030 and 1038 of the 11th and 13th instant, and I approve the language you held to M. Crespin, Private Secretary to the Governor-General of Eastern Roumelia, as reported therein, with regard to the difficult position in which his Excellency found himself placed through the demands of M. de Krebel, the Russian Consul-General at Philippopolis.

Her Majesty's Government concur in the advice given to M. Crespin by the French and Italian Ambassadors that Aleko Pasha should so shape his course as not to bring about too great a state of tension in his relations with the Russian Agent; subject, however, with regard to the proposed mortuary chapel in the Shipka Pass to the precaution that plans for the same should be submitted and agreed upon, so as to prevent the building of a fortress under the guise of a chapel.

In the opinion of Her Majesty's Government it is not desirable that the Chief of the Staff in Roumelia should be a Russian.

I am, &c.

(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 59.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received November 25, 11·15 P.M.)

(No. 21.)
(Telegraphic.) *Cairo, November* 25, 1882, 9·40 P.M.

THE Sultan has written a letter to the Khedive requiring him to acquaint the Porte with what is going on here. Chérif Pasha says he will send a suitable answer. The Sultan has sent a message to the Khedive himself to suggest that an Imperial Ottoman Commissioner should be sent here from Constantinople. The Egyptian [Government] have declined to do so.

(Sent to Constantinople.)

No. 60.

E *Mr. Locock to Earl Granville.—(Received November* 27.)

(No. 154.)

My Lord, *Belgrade, November* 15, 1882.

I HAVE the satisfaction of reporting that the Servian Government have at length succeeded in raising a loan for the payment of the compensations awarded by the Agrarian Commission to the Ottoman proprietors in the ceded district, and that the contract was signed between the Minister of Finance and representatives of the Länder Bank of Vienna on the 12th instant.

M. Migatovitch told me this evening that on the whole he had no right to grumble at the terms, which are just over 7 per cent., considering the state of the money market and the unfortunate absence of competition for placing money in Servian securities; that 2,500,000 fr. will be paid in a few days; that another 2,000,000 fr. will be due in January; and that as to the remainder, which may be about another 1,000,000 fr. or 2,000,000 fr., nothing definite is settled except that the Länder Bank reserves to itself the option of taking it up on the same terms.

In congratulating the Minister on the success of his negotiations, I stated my belief that it would be to the interest of the Servian Government to effect a speedy arrangement with the landowners, in order that they might take their money direct from the Government and depart, for that I had this very day received a despatch from Mr. Baker at Nisch reporting the murder of two or three Turks within the last week, and expressing a fear that the crime partook of an agrarian nature.

I have, &c.

(Signed) SIDNEY LOCOCK.

No. 61.

Mr. Wyndham to Earl Granville.—(Received November 27.)

(No. 1049.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, November* 17, 1882.

I HAVE the honour to state that I have brought to the notice of the Porte the contents of Mr. Kirby Green's despatches to your Lordship Nos. 90 and 91 of the 28th and 31st October respectively, copies of which he forwarded to Her Majesty's Ambassador, respecting the raids made upon Montenegrin territory by North Albanians, and to state that it at once telegraphed to the Vali of Scutari in Albania on the subject. The Porte, however, on its side, complains of incursions into Turkish territory recently made by Montenegrins near Colatshine, which it says have given rise to the inroads of the Albanians.

I have informed Mr. Green of the above.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

No. 62.

Mr. Wyndham to Earl Granville.—(Received November 27.)

E
(No. 1050.)

Constantinople, November 17, 1882.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that I have received a note from the Bulgarian Chargé d'Affaires at this Court, stating that the difference which has existed between the Sublime Porte and the Bulgarian Agency respecting the mode of official correspondence between the two Governments has been satisfactorily arranged.

In communicating this fact to Her Majesty's Embassy, M. Izanoff inclosed copies of the latest correspondence which has passed between him and the Ottoman Minister for Foreign Affairs on the subject.

This correspondence consists, in the first place, of a note from Said Pasha, stating that the Imperial Government agrees that all business of a purely political nature shall be transacted between the Bulgarian Agency and the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, and that all other matters shall be referred to the Departments directly concerned. The Porte also agrees that powers of attorney shall be legalized by the "Notariat" attached to the Department of Justice.

The second note is M. Izanoff's answer to the Sublime Porte, in which he expresses his satisfaction at the renewal of relations between the two Governments, and, after reiterating the points agreed to by the Sublime Porte in its preceding note, begs that he may be furnished with the letters necessary to enable him to enter at once into official relations with the various Departments.

In the third note, the Sublime Porte informs M. Izanoff that instructions have been sent to all the Departments desiring them to treat directly with the Bulgarian Agency on all matters with which they are competent to deal.

I do not trouble your Lordship with further details on this subject, as the documents on the arrangement will be, doubtless, communicated to Her Majesty's Government by Her Majesty's Agent at Sofia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

No. 63.

Mr. Wyndham to Earl Granville.—(Received November 27.)

E
(No. 1065.)

Constantinople, November 20, 1882.

My Lord,

CAPTAIN JONES, Her Majesty's Consul-General at Philippopoli, having telegraphed to me on the 18th instant that he had heard that Osman Pasha and Said Pasha had promised M. de Nelidoff, the Russian Minister here, a concession of ground at Shipka, I inquired to-day of the Grand Vizier if it was a true report. His highness replied that M. de Nelidoff had applied for such a concession, that it had not been granted, but was under discussion.

I have informed Captain Jones of this.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

No. 64.

Mr. Wyndham to Earl Granville.—(Received November 27.)

E
(No. 1069.)

Constantinople, November 21, 1882.

My Lord,

IN my despatch No. 1040 of the 13th instant, I had the honour to inform your Lordship that the Ottoman Government were anxious to proceed with the delimitation of the Montenegrin frontier. I now learn that they have addressed a Circular on the subject to their Representatives with the Great Powers.

I have not seen the terms of this Circular, but I have gathered the nature of its contents from the Austrian and Italian Ambassadors.

Count Corti yesterday evening stated to me that, in his opinion, the Powers should not send their Commissioners to Montenegro until all the points at issue with regard to the line of frontier had been settled.

The portion of the line, his Excellency said, in the valley of the Zeta, between the Lake of Scutari and the River Sem, had never been arranged, and that, as the line of the British proposal stops at Sepa Gruda, it appeared to him that the line east of that place should follow the line of the Treaty of Berlin. Count Corti also added that he had strongly advised Said Pasha to settle the pending questions directly with the Government of the Principality, with which opinion, he said, his Excellency had agreed, but he remarked that he must now await a reply to his Circular.

Count Corti said, also, that he thought that the reply of the Great Powers might be, that the Commissioners would be sent when all pending questions on the subject had been settled, the more so as it would be impossible to commence marking out the line of boundary at this season of the year.

I may mention to your Lordship that I saw the Prime Minister yesterday, and that, in talking of this question, His Highness expressed to me the wish that the frontier-line should be arranged as closely as possible in accordance with the stipulations of the Treaty of Berlin.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

No. 65.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received November 27.)

(No. 546.)

My Lord,

Vienna, November 22, 1882.

THE Turkish Ambassador has communicated to the Imperial Government a despatch from the Porte on the subject of the Montenegrin frontier, and suggesting the appointment of a Commission for placing the boundary marks along the line.

I asked Count Kálnoky whether it was intended that the Commission should merely place the marks along the portion of the frontier which had been agreed upon, or was also to proceed to settle the frontier that had been left undecided.

His Excellency said that he was not quite certain, but he believed that the setting up of the "bornes" was all that was meant, and that the rest of the line should remain in suspense.

He saw no good reason for the adoption of such a course, and appeared to be of opinion that if a Commission were to be assembled it would be better that the whole frontier should be definitively settled.

He had not, however, as yet sufficiently examined the question, or decided upon the answer that he would return to the Turkish communication.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 66.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received November 27.)

(No. 548.)

My Lord,

Vienna, November 22, 1882.

A STATEMENT which has gone the round of the press, and created some sensation, that M. Hitrovo was named by the Russian Government to succeed M. Jonin as their Minister at Cettinje is, I am informed, entirely incorrect.

The appointment of a person, so well known for his Panslavist intrigues, to a post where he could work so much mischief would be greatly resented by the Austrian Government as an unfriendly act by the Cabinet of St. Petersburgh, but they do not believe it to be contemplated or thought of.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 67.

Said Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(*Communicated to Earl Granville by Musurus Pasha November 27.*)

(Télégraphique.) *Constantinople, le 25 Novembre*, 1882.

E

SUITE à mon télégramme du 17 de ce mois, relatif à la délimitation de la frontière Monténégrine.

Vous savez qu'à part la ligne du *statu quo*, réservée à un arrangement ultérieur, le travail à faire sur les autres parties de la frontière, travail qui est déjà indiqué en principe par le Traité de Berlin, ne consiste qu'en la délimitation et le bornage de ces localités par les soins des Commissaires des Puissances.

La plus grande partie de la délimitation et du bornage en question fut faite, dans le courant des deux années précédentes, par ces Commissaires et celui de la Sublime Porte, conformément aux stipulations du Traité.

Quant au reste, la saison n'ayant pas permis d'en achever le travail, la Commission se sépara à cette époque, et il fut convenu de hâter, à un moment propice, le retour sur les lieux des Commissaires Ottomans pour effectuer le bornage des terres restants, suivant les indications du dit Traité, et d'inviter de nouveau les Délégués des Puissances Signataires et de Principautés à se rendre pour le même objet sur les lieux.

En ce qui concerne la ligne du *statu quo* qui consiste en une étendue de territoire 39 kilom. carrés, la divergence qui s'était produite là-dessus fut, à diverses reprises, mûrement examinée; et, finalement, Son Altesse le Prince Nicolas consentit à ce que cette affaire aussi reçoive une solution par le partage égal du dit territoire entre les deux États, de façon que, dans tous les cas, le village et les collines de Malagosch restent du côté de la Turquie et qu'à cet effet on dédommage, au besoin, la Principauté, par la cession à cette dernière d'une certaine partie du territoire de Sertch attenant à la frontière Monténégrine.

Telle étant la décision prise par le Gouvernement Impérial, et des instructions en conséquence ayant été données à notre Commissaire, je vous prie de communiquer sans retard ce qui précède au Gouvernement auprès duquel vous êtes accrédité.

No. 68.

Mr. Wyndham to Earl Granville.—(*Received November 27, 11·30 P.M.*)

(No. 460.) *Constantinople, November 27*, 1882, 7·30 P.M.
(Telegraphic.)

SAÏD PASHA, the Minister for Foreign Affairs, has resigned, and has been succeeded by Assim Pasha, Minister of Evkaf.

No. 69.

Mr. Wyndham to Earl Granville.—(*Received November 28, 4 P.M.*)

(No. 461. Confidential.) *Constantinople, November 28*, 1882, 1·40 P.M.
(Telegraphic.)

IT is stated that a conspiracy has been discovered to depose the Sultan and to place his brother on the throne. Number of arrests have been made, and the late Minister of Foreign Affairs is suspected of complicity in it.

No. 70.

*Earl Granville to Mr. Wyndham.**

(No. 671.) *Foreign Office, November 28*, 1882.

Sir,

IN a note dated the 14th instant, of which a copy is herein inclosed,† the Roumanian Minister at this Court informs me that the Government of Bulgaria has

* Also to Sir E. Thornton (No. 331), Viscount Lyons (No. 1350), Sir A. Paget (No. 356), Lord Ampthill (No. 489), and Sir H. Elliot (No. 358).

† No. 44.

proposed to that of Roumania the appointment of a Roumano-Bulgarian Commission to put up boundary marks on the line of frontier between the Roumanian territory on the right bank of the Danube and that of the Principality, in accordance with the decisions of the International Commission instituted under the Treaty of Berlin. The Roumanian Government have declined this proposal on the ground that no communication regarding the frontier has been made to them by the Powers parties to the Treaty of Berlin.

It appears to Her Majesty's Government to be desirable that the Roumanian Government should be made officially acquainted with the decisions of the European Commission relative to Roumania, so that it should be in a position to come to an arrangement with the Government of Bulgaria for the erection of proper boundary marks, and I have to request you will communicate Prince Ghika's note to the Government to which you are accredited, and that you will suggest for their consideration that the Turkish Representative at Bucharest should be directed officially to communicate to the Roumanian Government the final acts of the European Boundary Commissions relating to the Roumanian frontier as confirmed by the Powers parties to the Treaty of Berlin.

I should wish you to inform me of the reply made by the Turkish Government to this suggestion in order that I may be in a position to give directions on the subject to Her Majesty's Minister at Bucharest.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 71.

Earl Granville to Prince Ghika.

M. le Ministre, *Foreign Office, November 28*, 1882.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 14th instant respecting the Roumano-Bulgarian frontier, and to assure you that the matter shall receive the attention of Her Majesty's Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 72.

M. Catalani to Earl Granville.—(*Received November 29.*)

My Lord, 3, *Manson Place, Queen's Gate, le 28 Novembre*, 1882.

PAR une Circulaire télégraphique du 17 courant, la Sublime Porte a fait connaître au Gouvernement du Roi ses intentions de procéder à la délimitation de la dernière partie de la frontière du Monténégro et a invité l'Italie à envoyer un Délégué à la Commission Internationale.

Le Gouvernement du Roi avait depuis quelque temps désigné M. Paladini, Capitaine d'État-Major, à prendre part aux travaux de la susdite délimitation.

Toutefois, avant de donner l'ordre à cet officier de se rendre sur les lieux, son Excellence le Chevalier Mancini désirerait savoir si le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté la Reine a donné son adhésion à la demande de la Sublime Porte.

J'ai par suite l'honneur d'avoir recours à l'extrême obligeance de votre Excellence, en la priant de vouloir bien me mettre à même de donner à mon Gouvernement des renseignements à ce sujet.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) T. CATALANI.

No. 73.

Memorandum by Major Sale.

I HAVE read the telegraphic despatches dated the 17th and 25th November, 1882, from the Porte to the Turkish Ambassador, and despatch No. 1069 of the 21st November from Her Majesty's Embassy, Constantinople.

I cannot find in the above-mentioned documents that any real agreement has been arrived at with regard to the disputed frontier.

I feel sure that unless a strictly defined line is agreed to by both Turks and Montenegrins it is useless for the Boundary Commissioners to attempt to commence work.

The parties have not agreed to any strictly defined line across the Podgoritza Plain. The suggestion that the Montenegrins should be compensated for giving up their claim to Matagûs by an extension of territory at or near Srê and Voina simply transfers the difficulty from one point to another, for the ground in the vicinity of Srê and Dinoši is perhaps even more hotly contested than at Matagûs.

If the Turks and Montenegrins really wish to settle the disputed boundary, it is quite easy for them to agree to a line which shall leave no points in dispute.

As regards the possibility of working in winter, it is stated correctly enough in the telegram of the 25th November from the Porte to the Turkish Ambassador that the Boundary Commission separated because the season did not permit it to work. It seems, therefore, somewhat unreasonable to ask that the Commission should be re-assembled in December, just when the worst of the winter is coming on.

We might during winter demarcate the Podgoritza Plain (a line having been agreed upon), though this would be under unfavourable circumstances, as the plain is much inundated at this season.

With this exception I do not think that demarcation would be practicable before the 1st May.

An experience of two years has convinced me that it will be useless to commence delimitation until—

1. The parties interested agree upon a strictly defined line which shall leave as little as possible to be settled on the spot.

2. That the parties interested bind themselves to accept the decision of the majority of the Commission as to the application on the ground itself of the line agreed upon.

(Signed) M. T. SALE, *Major, R.E.*

November 20, 1882.

No. 74.

Earl Granville to Sir A. Paget.

(No. 358.) *Foreign Office, November* 29, 1882.

Sir,

THE Italian Chargé d'Affaires has addressed to me the note of which a copy is inclosed,* requesting to be informed whether Her Majesty's Government have agreed to the request of the Porte that the delimitation of the frontier between Turkey and Montenegro might be resumed.

M. Catalani called this afternoon to obtain my answer.

I told him that we were of opinion that the time of year was not favourable for surveying operations, but that the Russian Government had urged that it was undesirable to make objections which would give an excuse to the Porte for letting the matter drop.

I had consulted the officer who had acted as British member of the Commission, and I understood that it would be possible to survey and lay down the boundary line across the plain of Podgoritza during the winter, but that further operations must be delayed till the spring.

But before the Commission resumed operations we considered it necessary that the parties interested should agree upon a line of frontier which should leave as little as possible to be settled on the spot, and that they should bind themselves to accept the decision of the majority of the Commission as to the application on the ground itself of the line agreed upon.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

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* No. 72.

No. 75.

Earl Granville to Mr. Wyndham.

(No. 633.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, November* 30, 1882, 6·30 P.M.

MONTENEGRIN frontier.

We understand work is only possible on Podgoritza Plain during winter. We agree to resumption of operations, provided the parties first agree upon a strictly defined line, leaving as little as possible to be settled on the spot, and that they bind themselves to accept decision of majority of Commission as to its application on the ground.

No. 76.

Earl Granville to Mr. Wyndham.

(No. 676. Ext. 633.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, November* 30, 1882.

WITH reference to your despatch No. 1069 of the 21st instant, and to my despatch No. 668 of the 27th instant, relative to the proposal of the Turkish Government for resuming the delimitation of the Turco-Montenegrin boundary, I have to state that Her Majesty's Government understand that it would not be possible to undertake such work during the present season, except, perhaps, in the Podgoritza Plain, and that even this would be under unfavourable circumstances, as the plain is often inundated during winter.

From the information received by Her Majesty's Government, it does not appear to them that any real agreement has been arrived at between the parties interested with regard to the disputed frontier, and they would only be disposed to join in the resumption of operations on the condition that a strictly defined line had been previously agreed upon, which would leave as little as possible to be settled on the spot, and further that the Turkish and Montenegrin Governments should bind themselves to accept the decisions of the majority of the Commission as to its application on the ground.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 77.

Earl Granville to Sir E. Thornton.

(No. 344.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, November* 30, 1882.

THE Russian Chargé d'Affaires called at this Office on the 25th instant to say that the Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs at St. Petersburgh had received a communication from the Turkish Ambassador in that capital, urging the resumption of the delimitation of the boundary between Turkey and Montenegro.

The view taken by the Russian Government, he stated, is, that though the season of the year renders it impracticable to undertake such work at the present time, it would nevertheless be expedient to encourage the settlement of the question, and not to allow the Porte to make use of any objection which may be made to resuming the delimitation at present as a pretext for letting the matter sleep.

M. Davydow was informed that a similar communication had been made to Her Majesty's Government, and that no reply had yet been sent, though I had observed to Mussurus Pasha that the season of the year might be an impediment.

M. Davydow thought that preliminary arrangements might be set on foot with a view to the delimitation being resumed in the spring, and that by this means the Porte might be more easily kept to its proposal.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 78.

Mr. Wyndham to Earl Granville.—(*Received December* 1.)

(No. 463.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, December* 1, 1882.

FURTHER Ministerial changes as follows: Ahmed Vefik Pasha, Prime Minister; Hussein Husni Pasha, Minister of War; Arifi Pasha, President of Council of State. Other changes expected.

No. 79.

Mr. Wyndham to Earl Granville.—(*Received December* 1, 4·15 P.M.)

(No. 464.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, December* 1, 1882, 1·45 P.M.

MY telegram No. 461 of 28th ultimo.

Inquiry as to pretended conspiracy to dethrone the Sultan still continues. His Majesty did not go, as usual, to the Mosque to-day.

Circassian guard disbanded and exiled, together with large number of Circassian women employed in the Imperial harem who are related to them.

Great confusion and alarm is said to prevail at the Palace.

No. 80.

Mr. Wyndham to Earl Granville.—(*Received December* 1, 7·30 P.M.)

(No. 465.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, December* 1, 1882, 6 P.M.

WITH reference to my telegram No. 463 of this morning, Safvet Pasha has been appointed Minister for Foreign Affairs instead of Assim Pasha, who has been transferred to the Ministry of Justice; Kiamil Pasha is appointed Minister of Evcaf; Ahmed Ratib Pasha, Minister of Marine; and Munir Bey, Minister of Finance; the other Ministers are maintained.

No. 81.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(*Received December* 2.)

E
(No. 94. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Scutari, November* 10, 1882.

A YEAR having now passed since your Lordship considered it desirable to direct Lord Dufferin, under your Lordship's despatch No. 737 of the 2nd November, 1881, to draw the attention of the Sultan and his Ministers to the serious condition of affairs in North Albania, I think it right to report to your Lordship that, notwithstanding the representations made by Her Majesty's Ambassador, absolutely nothing has been done or attempted by the Turkish authorities during these twelve months to remedy matters, or to obviate the political dangers which threaten the Sultan's dominions in this direction.

Perhaps the Porte may fancy that because it has had no active insurrectionary movement to suppress, nor to drive out armed intruders, its administration is in a satisfactory state. Nevertheless, the decay has continued; the want of government is still more apparent; and the desire for a change, arrive whence it may, is daily becoming more general.

The Governors, Military Commanders, and others sent from Constantinople to fill offices are, as a rule, intellectually deficient and morally weak. They fear complaints being made against them to the Central Government, and consequently endeavour, by tolerating lawless exactions, to secure the support of native bravos and bullies capable of stilling by judicious threats any local desire to appeal for redress to the capital.

In Jacova, Ipek, Prisrend, and other centres in the Kossovo Vilayet, Christian merchants and artizans attend the bazaars, at the risk of their lives, on the bought

protection of some desperado, or else remain idle at home until an opportunity offers for removal to some safer country. Even Mahommedans, who are not prepared to fight, have to submit to exactions, and travelling has to be performed in caravans of large bodies of armed men.

Until lately the town of Scutari, although evidently considered a convenient and safe place for the settlement of blood-feuds and private quarrels, had still not come under the influence of lawless ruffians. The favour, however, now extended to such persons by the authorities has quickly brought the town on a level with those of the Kossovo Vilayet, and the native Christians have to seek the safety of their houses shortly after sunset, and secretly purchase immunity from too general exactions by constituting themselves the tributaries of some Bey or Agha notoriously favoured by one or other of the officials of the Konak (Government House).

The entrance of a bravo into a shop is the signal for a general stampede of the customers, and the shopkeeper has to submit to the rifling of his till, or, if meagre, to give up his watch, or provide within a fixed term whatever is required of him. Appeals for protection have more than once been made to me by the victims of these robberies, but I have been unable to assist them, knowing full well the difficulty I should have to secure justice or protection for even those who can legally claim my interference.

In the rural districts the sentences of the Courts are seldom executed, and the payment of tithes and other taxes is there becoming almost optional. The police, and even the regular troops, are withdrawn the moment a sign of resistance is observed.

The authorities may, by this process of doing nothing, truly boast that they encounter no difficulties in carrying on their administration. Their system, however, is rapidly teaching the North Albanians that the only obstacle to proper government is the presence in the country of the Turkish officials, and that their disappearance would at once be replaced by public safety and justice.

When I first came to this country, seven years ago, the hatred for the Slavs was intense; now the material progress made by Servia and Montenegro, and the orderly government carried on there, are openly envied, and a time is being looked forward to when, perhaps, by annexation, if no other way is available, North Albania may come in for a share of those advantages.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 82.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(*Received December* 2.)

E
(No. 95. Secret.)
My Lord, *Scutari, November* 14, 1882.

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that I have reason to believe that the Hellenic Government is employing emissaries to create disturbances in North and Middle Albania, and that the Turkish authorities are not ignorant of the fact.

Both here and at Durazzo arrests and examinations of suspected persons have been effected, and it has been ascertained that certain Albanian Beys who are in Greek employ, and are now at Corfu, have been in active communication with their relatives and countrymen in Matia, Dibra, Mirdicia, and other parts of Middle Albania, depicting the present moment as favourable for a political move.

Some of these proceedings have been taken under cover of the known efforts of Egyptian agents to enlist men for the Khedive's army.

Among those sent across from Corfu is a Mirdite, named Prenk Gjoka, who, on arrival here, announced that he was in the service of the English, but did not draw upon himself the attention of the authorities until after he had reached Mirdicia. The reports of his proceedings there have caused most active measures to be taken for his arrest, and, I suppose, have sufficiently alarmed Gjoka to induce him to address himself to me, and to forward a letter of recommendation in his favour written to me by a certain Emin Koryzas, who was formerly a Turkish officer, and is now a commander of a battalion of the Hellenic army. This person, on the strength of my having made his casual acquaintance at Corfu two years ago, confides to me, in a few words, that Gjoka is an Albanian patriot whom I can trust, and that he feels sure I will sympathize in their work.

I at once replied, through the messenger employed to bring these communications to me, that I had absolutely nothing to do with Gjoka or his friends; that, therefore, he, Gjoka, had nothing to expect from me, and that my advice to him was that he should leave the country as quickly as possible.

Had Gjoka been arrested by the Turkish authorities, and the letter addressed to me found on him, I should have been infallibly accused of connivance in these political plots.

Among the other persons suspected by the authorities here to be fomenting a rising in Mirdicia, is Lorenzo Guarracuchi, late Secretary to Prenk Bib Doda, the Mirdite Chieftain now in exile at Constantinople. Bib Doda's friends, on the recent return to Scutari of M. Guarracuchi, announced that the latter had been dismissed from the service of the Mirdite Chief, and no longer enjoyed his confidence, as he had compromised his name with some Germans whom he had induced to visit Mirdicia during last summer in order to examine, with a view to purchase, its forests. It appears, however, that whilst M. Guarracuchi has pretended to be secluded in his house on the score of health, he has, according to Mussulman information, since his return, visited all the principal districts of Mirdicia and the Alessio Mountains, and renewed the revolutionary propagandism of which he was so active a member when in 1876–77 Prenk Bib Doda was in open revolt.

From another source I learn that M. Murinaki, who is the newly-appointed Greek Consul to Scutari, but who is still at Athens, was employed, whilst recently Consul at Malta, in facilitating the return to North-east Albania of a number of Albanians whom Dervish Pasha caused, after his military operations in the Kossovo Vilayet, to be exiled to Tripoli, and who managed to escape to Malta, through the Regency of Tunis. As these Albanians belong to influential families, and have been completely alienated from their allegiance to the Ottoman Government through the shameless bad faith of Dervish Pasha, probably the Hellenic Government has thought M. Marinaki's transfer to Scutari might enable him to follow up with advantage the friendships made at Malta.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 83.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(*Received December 2.*)

E
(No. 98. Confidential.) *Scutari, November 14, 1882.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that I learn from private sources that all Montenegrins in Servia and other adjoining countries are rapidly returning to the Principality, and that great numbers of Mussulman Bosniaks and Herzegovinians are also entering Montenegro.

The recall of Montenegrins from abroad is a measure always adopted by the Montenegrin Government when it expects an outbreak of hostilities; the present immigrations are therefore considered to foreshadow early troubles.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 84.

Count Kálnoky to Count Károlyi.—(*Communicated to Earl Granville by Count Károlyi, December 2.*)

(Translation.) *Vienna, November 27, 1882.*

M. le Comte,

THE Turkish Ambassador has communicated to me the inclosed Circular despatch, according to which the Porte is desirous of dealing immediately with the delimitation of the Montenegrin frontier, with the excepting of certain points to be reserved for an agreement. As the demarcation of the tract from Vojna to Planinitza has been effected, the question would now be of proceeding with the demarcation of the further section from Planinitza to Seculare, and thence to Mojkovač.

The Ottoman Delegates have already been commissioned to proceed to Scutari,

and the Porte is now urging us to appoint our Commissioners. Yesterday Edhem Pasha communicated to me a second Circular from his Government, of which a copy is also annexed.

The final settlement of the Turco-Montenegrin frontier question is, in our opinion, also very desirable, yet it appears to us very difficult to understand why, after so long an interval, the Sublime Porte should select for sending Commissioners a time of year when travelling in these inhospitable regions would be almost impossible, and in any case extremely inconvenient, and the work of the Commission could only proceed slowly.

But, apart from all this, I do not think that the Commission could be at present appointed with a prospect of a definite termination of its labours. The section from Scutari to Vojna is, as the Circular itself points out, still a subject of controversy, and its technical demarcation can only, therefore, be proceeded with after an agreement as to the bases of such demarcation has been arrived at. As to the section Planiniza-Seculare, of which the Circular makes mention, after all the negotiations which were carried on with regard to the "Berlin line," the so-called "Corti arrangement," and the "*status quo* line," without any definite conclusion being arrived at, it might give rise to difficulties the solution of which could hardly be expected to fall within the scope of a simple Boundary Commission.

There would therefore only remain the eastern line mentioned in the Circular, from Seculare to Mojkovič, which might be marked out without giving rise to any special difference of opinion. If the other Powers were willing to appoint Commissioners for marking out this section, we, on our side, should be the more willing to do the same, as our proximity to the scene renders it more easy for us. It seems to us, however, more expedient to let the Commission assemble when more progress has been made with the preliminaries, best of all at a time when it would be possible for it to settle *in continuo* the delimitation of the whole of the still undefined boundary between Turkey and Montenegro, and thus place the question once for all beyond controversy. This might, perhaps, be possible in spring. In the interval, Turkey might come to an agreement directly with Montenegro respecting the still-pending frontier question, and might communicate it to the Powers for confirmation.

The Imperial Government of Russia shares this opinion, and has communicated a proposal to Prince Lobanow, of which he has confidentially given me the outline, as follows:—"That the season appears to be very unfavourable; but that, in order not to discourage the good intentions of the Porte, the two parties might be allowed in the first instance to come to an agreement directly on the points at issue. In case of agreement, the Commissioners would be sent in spring for the demarcation ('bornage'). In case of disagreement, the difficulty would be decided by the meeting of Ambassadors at Constantinople."

I have informed Prince Lobanow that I concur in this proposal, and am prepared to support it.

Your Excellency will express yourself in this sense to the Government to which you are accredited, and inform me of their views.

Receive, &c.
(Signed) KÁLNOKY.

No. 85.

Mr. Wyndham to Earl Granville.—(*Received December 3, 10 P.M.*)

(No. 466.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, December 3, 1882, 3·30 P.M.*

MY telegrams Nos. 461 and 464 of the 28th ultimo and 1st instant.

The general opinion is that there has been no real conspiracy against the Sultan, but that the whole affair has been got up by a certain party at the Palace and some of the Ministers, especially by Mahmoud Nedim Pasha, Minister of the Interior, in order to upset the two Saids, in which, for the present, they have been successful.

I have reported this to Lord Dufferin, as well as substance of my telegrams Nos. 461 and 464.

No. 86.

Mr. Wyndham to Earl Granville.—(*Received December* 3, 10 P.M.)

(No. 467.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, December* 3, 1882, 3·45 P.M.

WITH reference to my telegrams Nos. 455 and 458, I understand that the idea of sending a squadron to the Red Sea has been abandoned for the present.

No. 87.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(*Received December* 3, 10 P.M.)

(No. 34.)
(Telegraphic.) *Cairo, December* 3, 1882, 6·50 P.M.

I HAVE had a private letter from Moucrieff stating that he had reason to fear a creature of the Sultan's had endeavoured to poison Midhat Pasha. He at once told the Governor Europe would hold him responsible if anything happened to the prisoners. He now telegraphs he has received a reassuring reply from the Governor.

Mr. Wyndham should be told to speak decisively to the Porte on this subject, as Moucrieff is not an alarmist.

(First paragraph repeated to Constantinople.)

No. 88.

Mr. White to Earl Granville.—(*Received December* 4.)

E
(No. 89.) *Bucharest, November* 25, 1882.

My Lord,

WITH reference to the question of Arab Tabia, alluded to in the debate on the Address as mentioned in my despatch of this day's date immediately preceding, and in that of the 15th instant, I think that it may be as well that I should report the statement made by the Prime Minister in the Chamber, who spoke on this subject nearly as follows:—

"With regard to Arab Tabia, you may be sure that the decision come to by the Powers will be respected.

"You are aware that Russia was unwilling to allow our troops to remain in possession of Arab Tabia, and that we were even forced to evacuate it, when Austria was commissioned by the other Powers to effect a compromise, the result of which was a modification somewhat to our disadvantage, leaving us, indeed, the elevation of Arab Tabia, but altering the frontier-line in its immediate vicinity so as to render a bridge east of Silistria almost an impossibility. After long delay the Porte at last sanctioned the whole of this arrangement by an Iradé, but the final decision has, up to this moment, never been communicated to us.

"We have not thought it proper to press for this communication, and we see no reason to do so, but if Bulgaria chooses she may do so at any time by applying either to Austria, who was charged with mediation in this question, or to all the signatory Powers.

"For our part, we have no doubt that the decision of these Powers is a final one, and if at any moment we should have occasion to apply for its communication it will be granted."

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 89.

Mr. Wyndham to Earl Granville.—(*Received December* 4.)

(No. 1086. Confidential.)
Constantinople, November 28, 1882.

My Lord,

IN a telegram which I addressed to your Lordship last night, I had the honour to report that Said Pasha had resigned, and had been succeeded by Assim Pasha as

Minister for Foreign Affairs. I now learn that his Excellency did not resign, but that he has been dismissed from his office on suspicion of being mixed up in a pretended plot against the Sultan.

Whether there is any real foundation for the rumours which have been current lately as to a conspiracy against His Majesty, or whether the whole affair is a creation of his fancy conjured up by his perpetual dread of assassination, and which has become with him a perfect monomania, it is at present impossible to say. At any rate, numerous arrests have been and are being made. Marshal Fuad Pasha, a trusted officer of the Sultan, and who was lately sent to Vienna with the insignia of the Order of the Imtiaz for the Emperor of Austria, is imprisoned at Yildiz Kiosk, and cut off from all communication with his family and friends. Kiamil Pasha, formerly Minister of Public Instruction, the General and the Colonel of a regiment of Dragoons, and eight Circassian officers, the former Mufti of Tachlidga, who opposed the Austrians in the field on their entering Bosnia, His Highness Hafiz Behram Agha, the Chief of the Eunuchs, Marshal Nusreh Pasha, Aide-de-camp of the Sultan, are all either under arrest or in disgrace, and are, with the ex-Minister for Foreign Affairs, being interrogated at the Palace by a Commission composed of Osman Bey, the First Chamberlain, Raghib Bey, the Head of the Secret Police, a man notorious for his bad character, and Reschid Bey.

Moreover, I am informed that fifteen persons, I presume suspected of being connected with this pretended conspiracy, have been taken from their homes and sent, it is said, into exile.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

No. 90.

Mr. Wyndham to Earl Granville.—(*Received December* 4.)

(No. 1087. Confidential.)
Constantinople, November 28, 1882.

My Lord,

SINCE writing my despatch No. 1086 of to-day's date, I have learnt that Namik Pasha, First Aide-de-camp General of the Sultan, and hitherto in the enjoyment of His Majesty's confidence, and President of the Extraordinary Commission for Public Works, has been also arrested, and it is said that he has been condemned to exile. A large number of officers and privates in a Dragoon regiment, besides the General and Colonel already mentioned, have been imprisoned.

The Commission holding the inquiry is presided over by Djevdet Pasha, Minister of Justice.

The object of the conspiracy seems to have been to seize the Sultan on his going to mosque on Friday, to depose him, and to place on the throne the presumptive heir, Mahomet Reschad Effendi, His Majesty's brother, and son of Abdul Medjid.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

No. 91.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(*Received December* 4.)

E
(No. 554.)
Vienna, November 28, 1882.

My Lord,

COUNT KÁLNOKY tells me that he learns from Prince Lobanow that the Russian Government is disposed to agree to the invitation of the Porte, that the question of the endowed Church property in Roumania should be submitted to arbitration.

His Excellency appears himself to be of opinion that this would be the regular course to follow if an agreement cannot be arrived at by the Turkish and Roumanian Governments, but that perhaps before it was resorted to an attempt should be made by the Porte to come to a direct understanding with the Cabinet of Bucharest.

If the answer of the latter should make this impossible, an appeal to arbitration would be in conformity with what had been decided by the Commission.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 92.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received December 4.)

(No. 555. Confidential.) *Vienna, November 28, 1882.*

My Lord,

WHILE speaking with Baron Calice I turned the conversation upon Bosnia and the Herzegovina, and remarked that he would find here an increasing wish that the occupation should be converted into an absolute annexation.

He said that this desire having been exhibited by a portion of the public press, he had been instructed to give an explicit assurance to the Porte that no such change would be attempted without the consent of the Sultan.

For himself, his knowledge of the Turkish character made him doubt whether the Sultan would ever willingly part with the nominal sovereignty of the provinces, however worthless it might be to him; and although, even if he regarded the Austrian occupation as temporary, he must be aware that they could never, under any circumstances, be restored to Turkey.

For himself, moreover, Baron Calice said that, apart from the objections likely to be raised by the Sultan, he was inclined to consider that the inconvenience following an annexation would decidedly outweigh the advantages to be expected from it.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 93.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received December 4.)

E

(No. 556. Confidential.) *Vienna, November 29, 1882.*

My Lord,

I HAVE asked Baron Calice what his own opinion was about the demands which Russia is pressing upon the Eastern Roumelian Government.

He said that he believed his views and the language he had held to the Porte to have been at first rather incorrectly represented to Mr. Wyndham, and he was therefore glad to tell me exactly what he felt and what he had said on the subject.

In the first place, the pretensions of the Russian Government, especially as regards the appointment of a Chief of the Staff or other high officers, and the purchase of a supply of the Russian military rifle, appeared to him altogether unreasonable, and such as the Eastern Roumelian Government could not safely recognize as a right, but he thought that they should make every effort to avoid giving offence by a direct refusal.

When his opinion had been asked he had therefore considered it necessary not to say anything that could be taken as implying that assistance would be given by Austria if a breach with Russia was precipitated, and he had confined himself to recommending the maintenance of a conciliatory attitude towards that Power, and to saying that as long as Aleko Pasha continued strictly within his constitutional obligations and to be guided by the Organic Statute, he would be able to count upon the moral support of the Treaty Powers.

Since seeing Baron Calice I have spoken on the subject to Count Kálnoky, whose views entirely agree with those of the Ambassador.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 94.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received December 4.)

E

(No. 557. Very Confidential.) *Vienna, November 29, 1882.*

My Lord,

LAST night Baron Calice, while speaking of the demands upon Aleko Pasha, on which the Russian Government were so energetically insisting, mentioned a circumstance that appears well worthy of the attention of Her Majesty's Government.

as explaining the object for which the menacing attitude towards Eastern Roumelia had been assumed.

Baron Calice said that it had come to his knowledge that M. de Nelidow had stated himself to be well satisfied with the course which Her Majesty's Government were pursuing in Egypt, where they assumed a right of enjoying a preponderance which, after such a precedent, could not be denied to Russia in Eastern Roumelia, where the position she had acquired was precisely similar to that of England in Egypt.

Baron Calice had endeavoured to get M. de Nelidow to speak upon the subject of Eastern Roumelia, and, though the language of the Russian Minister was not as explicit as that which had been reported to him, he was satisfied that the views that he entertained were those above stated.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 95.

E *Lord Ampthill to Earl Granville.—(Received December 4.)*

(No. 432.)

My Lord, *Berlin, December 1, 1882.*

I HAVE communicated to the Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs the substance of your Lordship's telegram No. 633 to Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Constantinople of the 30th ultimo, communicated to me in your Lordship's telegram No. 328 of the same day, respecting the definition of the Montenegrin frontier.

His Excellency tells me that, in reply to the communication on this subject received from the Porte, the Turkish Ambassador has been informed that the German Commissioner, Herr von Testa, who is at present Consul at Ragusa, will be instructed to hold himself ready to proceed to the spot and resume operations as soon as the Powers are agreed, and have instructed their Representatives accordingly.

His Excellency said he would take note of your Lordship's instruction to Mr. Wyndham for communication to the Chancellor and Count Hatzfeldt.

I have, &c.

(Signed) AMPTHILL.

No. 96.

Mr. Wyndham to Earl Granville.—(Received December 4.)

(No. 468.)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, December 3, 1882, 6·30 P.M.*

SAID PASHA has been reinstated in office with title of Grand Vizier; Aarifi Pasha appointed Minister for Foreign Affairs; Osman Pasha, Minister for War; Hassan Pasha, Minister of Marine; Akif Pasha, President of Council of State; Edib Effendi, Minister of Finance.

(Sent to Lord Dufferin.)

No. 97.

Mr. Wyndham to Earl Granville.—(Received December 4.)

(No. 469.)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, December 3, 1882, 7 P.M.*

SAID PASHA, ex-Prime Minister, has to-day been reinstated in office with the higher title of Grand Vizier, and Osman Pasha has been reinstated as Minister of War, also with higher rank. Both of the above Ministers were accused of complicity in the pretended conspiracy against the Sultan.

(Sent to Lord Dufferin.)

No. 98.

Mr. Wyndham to Earl Granville.—(*Received December 4, 8·15 P.M.*)

(No. 470. Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, December 4, 1882, 11·30 A.M.*

ALL the reports that reach me confirm the belief that there has been no conspiracy against the Sultan, but that the recent arrests and sudden changes of Ministers are the result of the unsettled state of His Majesty's mind. Grave fears are, I am told, entertained as to His Majesty's mental condition.

(Sent to Lord Dufferin.)

No. 99.

Mr. Wyndham to Earl Granville.—(*Received December 4, 10·15 P.M.*)

(No. 471.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, December 4, 1882, 6·30 P.M.*

MY telegram No. 470 of to-day.

I was secretly informed at the Porte to-day that the Circassian guard were to have endeavoured to murder the Sultan, and that, had he escaped, the Circassian women in the harem were to have attempted his assassination. This may be true, or it may be put about in order to justify the summary expulsion of the Circassians. Fuad Pasha, I was also informed, is believed to have been exiled to-night. Turkish officials hardly dare to speak on the subject, and it is very difficult to learn the truth.

(Sent to Lord Dufferin.)

No. 100.

Mr. Wyndham to Earl Granville.—(*Received December 4, 10·15 P.M.*)

(No. 472.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, December 4, 1882, 6·45 P.M.*

I CALLED the most serious attention of the Grand Vizier to-day to the very alarming report which had reached Lord Dufferin respecting Midhat Pasha, and I also reminded him of the endeavours his Excellency had made to obtain for him kinder treatment in prison. His Highness assured me he would call on the Governor to furnish him with explanations.

(Sent to Lord Dufferin.)

No. 101.

Mr. Wyndham to Earl Granville.—(*Received December 4, 10·15 P.M.*)

(No. 473.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, December 4, 1882, 7 P.M.*

MONTENEGRO frontier: Your Lordship's telegram No. 633 of 30th ultimo.

I have communicated to the Sublime Porte views of Her Majesty's Government. The Grand Vizier informed me to-day that he had instructed the Turkish Commissioner, who is on his way to Cettinjé, to come to an understanding with the Prince's Government on the basis of the *status quo réservé*, and if possible to have the line decided on during the winter, so that it may be marked out in the spring.

No. 102.

Mr. Wyndham to Earl Granville.—(*Received December 5, 4·30 P.M.*)

(No. 474. Secret.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, December 5, 1882, 2·40 P.M.*

WITH reference to my telegram No. 470 of yesterday, I have received secret information this morning which leads me to believe that a plot was really formed to

assassinate or depose the Sultan, and that Fuad Pasha, who is still in confinement at the Palace, was at the head of it.

(Sent to Lord Dufferin.)

No. 103.

Earl Granville to Mr. Wyndham.

(No. 679.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, December 5, 1882.*

I HAVE to call your attention to Mr. K. Green's despatch No. 94 of the 10th ultimo relative to the continued lawless condition of North Albania, and to instruct you to bring to the notice of the Porte the serious state of affairs therein described.

Although the evil results which cannot fail to ensue as regards the authority of the Porte over the district in question are sufficiently obvious, and representations on the subject were made a year ago by Her Majesty's Ambassador to the Turkish Prime Minister, as reported in Lord Dufferin's despatch No. 1003 of the 15th November, 1881, nothing whatever has been done since that time, and no effort has been made to check the abuses to which attention was then called.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 104.

Earl Granville to Mr. Kirby Green.

(No. 26.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, December 5, 1882.*

I HAVE received your despatch No. 94 of the 10th ultimo relative to the continued lawless state of affairs in North Albania, consequent upon the weakness and incapacity of the Turkish officials and their desire to prevent complaints against their administration being made to the Central Government.

With regard to the appeals which you mention as being sometimes made to you for protection by victims of robbery and injustice, I have to state that if any such be made to you by British subjects, you should report the matter home, and apply for instructions in the event of your representations being disregarded by the Turkish authorities.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 105.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(*Received December 6.*)

(No. 98.)
My Lord, *Scutari, November 23, 1882.*

WITH reference to my despatch to your Lordship No. 90, Confidential, of the 14th instant, I have the honour to state that it has been explained to me that the Montenegrins who have returned to the Principality from the adjoining countries have only done so prior to again leaving Montenegro for the Isthmus of Corinth and other more distant places, where lucrative employment for miners and stonecutters is abundant.

The Bosniak and Herzegovinian Mussulmans, who have entered Montenegro in considerable numbers, are now passing into Albania, and expect to be ultimately established by the Ottoman Government in Anatolia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 106.

Mr. Wyndham to Earl Granville.—(*Received December 6, 1 P.M.*)

(No. 475.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, December 6, 1882, 11·40 A.M.*

MY telegram No. 474 of yesterday.
Fuad Pasha was liberated on Monday night.
(Sent to Lord Dufferin.)

No. 107.

Earl Granville to Mr. Wyndham.

(No. 634.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, December 6, 1882, 5·45 P.M.*

LORD DUFFERIN'S télegram to you respecting reported attempt to poison Midhat.

Express to the Porte the apprehension created by the information received, and urge on Porte necessity of taking every precaution for the safety of Midhat, as, if he becomes a victim of any such outrageous attempts while a prisoner in its hands, the event would create a deep feeling of indignation in this country and throughout Europe.

No. 108.

Mr. Wyndham to Earl Granville.—(*Received December 6, 11:30 P.M.*)

(No. 476.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, December 6, 1882, 7·30 P.M.*

MINISTER for Foreign Affairs has promised me to write to the Governor-General of Scutari respecting the insecurity of life and the apathy of the local authorities there, and with regard to the unfriendly attitude of the officials, complained of by Mr. Kirby Green in his despatch to your Lordship of the 8th ultimo.

I have informed Mr. Kirby Green.

No. 109.

Sir A. Paget to Earl Granville.—(*Received December 7.*)

E
(No. 427.) *Rome, December 2, 1882.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of the repetition of your Lordship's telegram No. 633 of the 30th November to Mr. Wyndham, relative to the Montenegrin frontier, and to inform your Lordship that I called yesterday afternoon on M. Mancini, who is still confined to his house, and acquainted him with its purport.

His Excellency informed me that he had just been made acquainted by the Russian and Austro-Hungarian Ambassadors with the views of their Governments upon this question.

The Russian proposal, which he himself looked upon favourably, and which the Austro-Hungarian Government declared themselves ready to accept, was to the effect that in order not to discourage the good disposition of the Porte, as the season for delimitation operations was not now favourable, it would be desirable to urge the two interested parties to come to a direct understanding upon the points still in dispute, and if an agreement were arrived at, to proceed in the spring with the delimitation on the spot; but in case of disagreement, the difficulty to be decided at a meeting of the Ambassadors at Constantinople.

M. Mancini observed that the only difference which appeared to him to exist between the views of the English and Russian Governments consisted in this, viz., that whereas the Russian Government would reserve any points in dispute for the decision of the Ambassadors at Constantinople, the former would leave them to be settled by the majority of the Commission.

His Excellency added that he had no preference for either the one or the other

course, and would follow that which might be agreed upon between the other Powers.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. PAGET.

No. 110.

Said Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(*Communicated to Earl Granville by Musurus Pasha, December 8.*)

E

M. l'Ambassadeur, *Sublime Porte, le 23 Novembre, 1882.*

MON prédécesseur s'est trouvé dans le cas de vous entretenir à diverses reprises des difficultés auxquelles se heurtent les travaux de la Commission Turco-Bulgare instituée en vertu de l'Article XII du Traité de Berlin.

Plusieurs des Puissances cosignataires de ce Traité avaient bien voulu nous promettre d'adresser à Sophia des représentations propres à amener le Gouvernement Princier au respect d'obligations découlant d'un acte international. Malheureusement cette promesse n'a pas été suivie jusqu'ici d'effet pratique. Les Délégués Bulgares persistent à entraver la marche de la Commission, notamment en ce qui regarde les propriétés appartenant au Gouvernement Impérial.

Je prie votre Excellence de vouloir bien renouveler ses démarches auprès du Principal Secrétaire d'État au Foreign Office, en vue de faire cesser toute opposition de la part du Gouvernement Bulgare au réglement définitif de la question dont il s'agit.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) SAID.

No. 111.

Mr. Wyndham to Earl Granville.—(*Received December 9, 12·40 P.M.*)

(No. 477.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, December 9, 1882, noon.*

DURING the night of Thursday to Friday three placards are said to have been found, one at Stamboul, one at Scutari, and one at Pera, stating that it is necessary to get rid of the Sultan, the reason assigned being that he is mad.
(Sent to Lord Dufferin.)

No. 113.

Mr. Wyndham to Earl Granville.—(*Received December 10, 7·45 P.M.*)

(No. 479. Secret.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, December 10, 1882, 4·40 P.M.*

MY despatch No. 1087 of the 28th November.

The brother of the Sultan, and his heir presumptive, is supposed to have been an accomplice in the alleged conspiracy against the Sultan, and to have plotted with the Circassian women of the Imperial harem to attain his object.
(Sent to Lord Dufferin.)

No. 114.

Mr. Wyndham to Earl Granville.—(*Received December* 10, 6 P.M.)

(No. 480. Secret.)
(Telegraphic.)

Constantinople, December 10, 1882, 5 P.M.

A TURKISH official, whose name I dare not mention, who has recently seen the Sultan, has expressed himself to my informant as to His Majesty's condition as follows:—

"His mind is lucid, but he is in such fear that he not only suspects everybody, but gives orders right and left without reflecting, the consequence of which is a reign of terror."

(Sent to Lord Dufferin.)

No. 115.

Mr. Wyndham to Earl Granville.—(*Received December* 10, 8 P.M.)

(No. 481.)
(Telegraphic.)

Constantinople, December 10, 1882, 5·30 P.M.

I VENTURE to suggest that a word of congratulation from your Lordship to Mussurus Pasha on the appointment of Said Pasha as Grand Vizier might have a good effect.

These constant changes of Ministers impede all business, and cause, I am told, a bad effect on the public.

No. 116.

Mr. Wyndham to Earl Granville.—(*Received December* 10, 8 P.M.)

(No. 482.)
(Telegraphic.)

Constantinople, December 10, 1882, 6 P.M.

I HAVE communicated to the Grand Vizier and Minister for Foreign Affairs the substance of your Lordship's telegram No. 634 of the 6th instant, on the reported attempt to poison Midhat Pasha.

No. 117.

Mr. Egerton to Earl Granville.—(*Received December* 11.)

E

(No. 191.)

Athens, December 2, 1882.

My Lord,

I ASKED M. Tricoupi three days ago how the Evacuation Commission was getting on.

"Uncommonly slowly," he said; "by the last accounts they were near Mellona." About this part of the frontier the pyramids were somewhat wide apart, and this gave rise to much discussion with respect to the boundaries of the intermediate spaces.

The two Turkish Commissioners were, he was informed, extremely inclined to delay the work by raising difficulties at every step. They are the same who served as Turkish members of the European Commission.

It is undoubtedly the interest of the Porte to use dispatch in the evacuation, for till this be effected, M. Tricoupi will not send the Greek Commissioner he has named to take part in the Commission for the State lands indemnities.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDWIN H. EGERTON.

No. 118.

Mr. Wyndham to Earl Granville.—(*Received December* 11.)

(No. 1091.)

Constantinople, December 5, 1882.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul-General at Philippopoli inclosing a Report on the financial situation of Eastern Roumelia, drawn up for the information of the Governor-General of the province by M. E. Jacquin, Inspector of Finance.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

Inclosure 1 in No. 118.

Consul-General Jones to Mr. Wyndham.

Sir,

Philippopoli, November 20, 1882.

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith a Report on the financial situation in Eastern Roumelia, drawn up for the information of the Governor-General by M. E. Jacquin, Inspector of Finance. This gentleman is an *élève* of the Polytechnic, and an employé of the French Government in the fiscal Department, which, at the request of Aleko Pasha, allowed him to accept temporary employment in the province for the purpose of aiding and organizing its financial service. He regards the outlook as most unpromising, and finds himself unable to balance the provincial accounts unless some reduction be made in the sum assessed as the annual tribute to the Porte. This the text of the Organic Statute fixes at three-tenths of the revenue, but the Appendix to the same estimates it at 240,000 Turkish liras, a charge which the province has as yet found itself quite unable to meet.

The prescriptions of the Statute are immutable except with the concurrence of the Porte and the Signatory Powers; but, under certain stipulations, a revision of the Appendix may be made by the Provincial Assembly.

He proposes, therefore, that the original estimate (three-tenths of the net revenue) be accepted as the regular tribute due from the province to the Porte, which eventually may attain or even exceed the sum specified in the Appendix, and maintains that unless this be accorded it will be impossible to establish the necessary relationship between the provincial revenue and expenditure.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY M. JONES.

Inclosure 2 in No. 118.

Report by M. Jacquin on the financial Situation of Eastern Roumelia.

LE 20 Mars dernier, M. le Directeur des Finances, s'appuyant sur les bilans établis par la Commission spéciale chargée, à la suite d'un vote de l'Assemblée, d'étudier la situation financière de la province, remettait à son Altesse le Gouverneur-Général un Rapport, appelant son attention d'une façon toute particulière sur l'état fâcheux dans lequel il venait de trouver les finances de la Roumélie en prenant la direction du service. La conclusion à laquelle il arrivait était la suivante:—

"En tout cas on peut dire, sans crainte d'erreur, que la somme qui nous sera nécessaire pour payer nos dettes à la fin du mois de Septembre 1882, ne sera pas moindre de 25,000,000 piastres (la livre Turque à 100 piastres), dont 15,000,000 piastres formeront le déficit réel et les autres 10,000,000 piastres seront des arriérés." Il faisait remarquer ensuite que cette situation provenait de ce que, dans les Annexes du Statut Organique, la Commission Européenne avait évalué les revenus de la Roumélie à la somme de 80,000,000 piastres, alors que les exercices dont les résultats étaient déjà connus n'avaient donné que des produits de beaucoup inférieurs. Depuis l'époque à laquelle ce Rapport a été rediger, la Comptabilité Générale et le Contrôle ont fait tous leurs efforts pour arriver à fixer d'une manière définitive les chiffres des recettes et des dépenses des deux premiers exercices financiers. Le but que ces deux services ont poursuivi est actuellement atteint et les comptes rectificatifs des deux Exercices

1879-80 et 1880-81 pourront être soumis à l'Assemblée dans sa prochaine session après avoir été contrôlés à vue des pièces justificatives.

La Comptabilité Générale a également terminé la centralisation des écritures relatives à l'Exercice 1881-82. La vérification sur pièces des résultats de cet exercice n'a pas encore été faite, mais elle n'entraînera pas de modifications importantes, les opérations du troisième exercice s'étant effectuées dans des conditions plus régulières que celles des deux premiers. En utilisant les résultats de ces travaux, il est donc facile d'établir d'une manière suffisamment exacte la situation financière de la province à la fin de l'Exercice 1881-82. Quant à ce qui concerne l'exercice courant, on peut avec une assez grande approximation calculer les résultats probables. Il suffit pour cela de prendre les crédits mis à la disposition des Directeurs, soit par le Budget, soit par des autorisations ultérieures; on arrive ainsi aux chiffres des dépenses qui peuvent être effectuées jusqu'au 31 Juillet, 1883; pour les recettes on peut accepter à peu de choses près les évaluations inscrites au projet de Budget de 1883-84, ces évaluations ayant été basées sur les résultats définitifs de l'Exercice 1881-82, et aussi en partie sur les résultats probables de l'exercice courant. Il résulte que pour effectuer les dépenses qui figureront dans les trois premiers comptes rectificatifs il a fallu emprunter à l'exercice courant—

	Prs.	p.
La somme de	1,799,282	19
Cet exercice aura encore à supporter, en sus des dépenses autorisées par le Budget y relatif, les crédits reportés des exercices clos en vertu du Règlement d'Administration Publique, et qui s'élèvent à	22,500,590	26
Dans ce dernier chiffre se trouve naturellement compris l'arriéré du tribut (18,100,000 piastres); à ces deux sommes il faut ajouter le déficit probable de l'exercice courant	12,159,253	00
Ce qui fait un total de	36,159,126	05

Il convient ici de faire mention du solde des sommes dites "conditionnelles," qui a été considéré comme une des ressources des Budgets, bien que ce solde soit éventuellement exigible; mais actuellement les remboursements des sommes conditionnelles sont très peu élevés, et l'Assemblée ayant décidé de faire face à ces dépenses au moyen des fonds de réserve, on peut ne pas tenir compte de ce solde dans l'énumération du passif de la province.

Le passif total à la fin des quatre premiers exercices s'élèvera donc à 36,500,000 piastres environ. En déduction du passif il faut tenir compte de toutes les sommes qui sont dues à la province, soit comme arriérés d'impôts, soit comme avances faites aux communes ou aux particuliers, et non encore remboursées.

	Prs.	p.
Les arriérés d'impôts sur les trois premiers exercices s'élevaient au 31 Juillet, 1882, à	8,085,664	29
Et les avances non encore rentrées à 3,307,914 prs. 22 p.; mais il faut diminuer ce chiffre de 2,000,000 piastres, somme portée comme recette extraordinaire au Budget de 1883-84; il ne reste donc à faire figurer en atténuation du passif que	1,307,914	22
Soit un total de	9,393,579	08
Si l'on retranche de cette somme 2,000,000 piastres, chiffre auquel on peut approximativement évaluer les arriérés qui ne rentreront jamais dans les caisses de la province, il ne reste à déduire du passif que	7,393,579	08
Ce qui le réduit à	29,065,546	37
Total égal du passif cité plus haut	36,459,126	05

Le déficit de 29,065,546 piastres, auquel nous arrivons définitivement, peut toutefois être réduit dans certains limites, si des économies sont réalisées soit sur les crédits reportés au 31 Juillet dernier, soit sur les crédits de l'exercice courant.

La situation financière qui résulte de cet exposé est très grave; elle provient de ce que les recettes effectuées jusqu'à présent ont été loin d'atteindre les provisions inscrites dans les Annexes du Statut Organique par la Commission Européenne. On était parti de cette hypothèse, tout à fait arbitraire, que les revenus de la province ne pourraient être inférieurs à 80,000,000 piastres. Or, jusqu'à présent les recettes nettes n'ont pas dépassé 60,000,000. L'Exercice 1883-84 donnera des résultats peu différents, malgré les améliorations qu'on a cherché à réaliser. Une autre circonstance a contribué à rendre précaire l'état des finances de la province, c'est l'imputation sur les ressources ordinaires de dépenses présentant un caractère tout à fait extraordinaire, comme les

constructions d'écoles, de gymnases, et de casernes. On avait cru pouvoir agir ainsi, comptant sur des recettes bien supérieures à celles qui ont été réalisées.

L'opération eût été fort avantageuse en effet, s'il n'y avait pas eu les mécomptes qui se sont produits sur les recettes, et qui ont amené la situation embarrassée en présence de laquelle nous nous trouvons. La situation actuelle, qui est grave, ne peut aller qu'en s'empirant. Il est, en effet, stipulé dans l'Annexe No. 9 du Statut Organique qu'à partir de 1884 le tribut devra être augmenté chaque année, et cela pendant une période de cinq ans, d'une somme de 2,000,000 piastres, ce qui suppose une augmentation annuelle de 6,666,666 piastres. Cette augmentation malheureusement ne peut provenir de plus-values d'impôts. Quant aux impôts actuels, ils sont assez lourds et ne peuvent être augmentés de manière à produire de pareils résultats. L'exposé des motifs des projets de Budget de 1883-84 entre dans quelques détails à cet égard, et les mouvements d'émigration qui se sont produits récemment dans certaines parties de la province sont encore une preuve à l'appui de cette assertion. Le déficit que nous prévoyons à la fin des quatre premiers exercices ne fera donc que s'accroître à l'avenir. Dans ces conditions il est tout à fait impossible de recourir à un emprunt pour payer les arriérés du tribut; une opération de ce genre conduirait promptement la province à une catastrophe financière inévitable. On ne pourrait, en effet, inscrire au Budget l'annuité nécessitée par un emprunt aussi élevé sans rompre complètement l'équilibre budgétaire. De plus, l'opération devrait être renouvelée à bref délai, le tribut tel qu'il a été fixé dans les Annexes du Statut devant pendant plusieurs années encore être en disproportion très grande avec les recettes. Une crise financière suivrait de près l'appel au crédit.

La seule opération de crédit raisonnable, parfaitement admissible au point de vue financier et sauvegardant les intérêts de la Roumélie dans l'avenir, consisterait à couvrir les dépenses extraordinaires, faites ou à faire, au moyen de ressources extraordinaires, c'est-à-dire avec des fonds d'emprunt. En agissant ainsi on fait face, au moyen d'une annuité se répétant pendant un certain nombre de Budgets, à des dépenses d'un caractère tout à fait exceptionnel, tels que les constructions d'écoles, de routes, de casernes, &c.—opération parfaitement légitime. Il est de toute justice, en effet, que le poids de ces dépenses, assimilables le plus souvent à des placements de capitaux qui doivent rendre des services pendant un assez grand nombre d'années, augmenter même les ressources des Budgets futurs, soit supporté par tous ceux qui sont destinés à en profiter. C'est cette pensée qu'on met en pratique en couvrant des dépenses de ce genre par des annuités. La seule restriction à faire au point de vue financier consiste à souhaiter que l'amortissement soit aussi rapide que possible, pour ne pas trop engager l'avenir.

Même avec cet allègement apporté aux cinq premiers Budgets de la province, on n'arrive pas à l'équilibre. C'est en présence de cette situation qu'il a paru convenable d'examiner s'il est possible, en se maintenant dans l'esprit et les termes du Statut Organique, de songer à une réduction du tribut.

Le tribut a été calculé dans la prévision de recettes qui ne sont point réalisées et ne peuvent être atteintes de sitôt. N'est-il pas juste que la province en demande la réduction? Si cela est juste, est-ce possible tout en respectant le Statut Organique?

Les relations financières de la Sublime Porte et de la Roumélie Orientale sont, en ce qui concerne le tribut, réglées par les Articles 16 et 17 du Chapitre I^er^ du Statut. Les principes sont posés dans ces deux Articles; au Chapitre 7, Article 1^er^, les détails d'application sont indiqués avec une plus grande précision. Enfin, dans une troisième partie du Statut, à l'Annexe No. 9, Article 1^er^, des stipulations nouvelles sont formulées. Mais il ne faut pas perdre de vue que, si les rédacteurs du Statut Organique, en vertu des pouvoirs qui leur ont été conférés par l'Article XVIII du Traité de Berlin, ont interdit au Gouvernement de la province de modifier en quoi que ce soit les prescriptions du Statut lui-même, ils ont voulu, tout au contraire, qu'il lui fût possible d'en changer les Annexes toutes les fois que la pratique en ferait reconnaître la nécessité. Il résulte, en effet, de l'Article 495, que s'il faut une entente entre la Sublime Porte et les Puissances Signataires du Traité de Berlin, pour apporter une modification quelconque au Statut, sauf pour un certain nombre d'Articles concernant la milice, qu'une loi provinciale peut modifier; il suffit, au contraire, d'une loi provinciale pour changer les dispositions des Annexes. Cette décision se comprend, d'ailleurs, fort bien, si l'on remarque dans quels détails les auteurs du Statut Organique sont entrés en rédigeant les Annexes. Ils ont formulé de nombreuses dispositions d'administration et de comptabilité dont la valeur ne pouvait être jugée que par la pratique. Le temps et les éléments nécessaires manquaient à la Commission Européenne pour fixer à cet égard des dispositions immuables. Quand

cette Commission est venue à Philippopoli remettre l'ordre dans l'administration de la province et élaborer le Statut, rien n'existait. Les archives de l'Administration Turque avaient été détruites ou emportées, et les Russes n'avaient pas encore eu le temps de créer une Administration. Où puiser les renseignements nécessaires pour fixer dans tous ses détails les règles de l'organisation future? Où prendre des chiffres de comptabilité indiscutables pour se rendre compte du rendement des impôts? La tâche était ardue, aussi comprend-on fort bien le parti auquel la Commission s'est arrêtée. Dans une première partie de son travail elle a posé les principes généraux, évitant le plus souvent possible de fixer des chiffres, d'entrer dans une réglementation trop rigoureuse, et elle a déclaré que cette première partie ne saurait être modifiée, sans l'intervention des Puissances et de la Porte. Quant à la seconde partie de son travail, plus détaillée que la première, fixant beaucoup de points spéciaux d'une manière très méticuleuse, elle a voulu que par une simple loi provinciale on pût la modifier. La Commission Européenne a tenu, et avec raison, à tracer un canevas à la nouvelle Administration, un peu inexpérimentée, qui allait entrer en fonctions, mais aussi à ne pas lui créer d'entraves en lui laissant la possibilité de changer facilement les dispositions d'une importance secondaire qu'elle avait été amenée à prendre. Elle a donné des chiffres précis pour la fixation des impôts, pour leur rendement même, mais elle n'a voulu en aucune manière donner à ces chiffres une consécration définitive. Ne pouvant se rendre compte avec certitude de ce qui serait la situation matérielle et financière de la province, une fois le calme ramené dans toutes ses parties, elle n'a pas voulu que ses prévisions pussent engager l'avenir. Pour obtenir de la Sublime Porte la sanction nécessaire à toute loi provinciale modifiant les Annexes il suffit donc à la province d'établir que les prévisions de la Commission Européenne n'ont pas été justifiées par l'expérience.

Avant de faire cette preuve relativement à la question du tribut il convient toutefois de revenir sur les dispositions du Statut. Voici le texte:—

"Art. 16. La Roumélie Orientale participe aux charges générales de l'Empire dans une proportion de trois dixièmes de ses revenus, exception faite de ceux qui sont réservés à l'Empire.

"Art. 17. Les revenus des Douanes, des Postes, et des Télégraphes dans la province sont réservés à l'Empire. L'Administration financière de la province en paie le produit net au Gouvernement Impérial selon les dispositions du présent Statut et des Règlements qui y sont annexés."

"Art. 195. L'équivalent du produit net annuel des Douanes, évalué à la somme fixe de £T. 5,000, est dévolu au Gouvernement Impérial."

Enfin, pour ce qui concerne les Postes et Télégraphes, qui constituent également un revenu réservé à l'Empire, il est stipulé à l'Article 198 que la moitié de la somme provenant de la vente des timbres-poste est dévolu à la province pour couvrir les frais d'administration.

Il résulte de ces Articles que la Commission Européenne, en rédigeant le Statut Organique, a divisé en deux catégories bien distinctes les recettes de la province. Pour les unes la Sublime Porte doit en percevoir les trois dixièmes; pour les autres—recettes des Douanes, des Postes, et des Télégraphes—la totalité est allouée à l'Empire. Mais dans un cas comme dans l'autre, il n'est jamais entré dans l'esprit des membres de la Commission de frapper les produits bruts. Pour les produits alloués en totalité à la Sublime Porte, ce point est nettement spécifié, et la manière dont sont rédigés les Articles cités plus haut montre que toutes les fois que la Commission a parlé de revenus affectés, soit en partie, soit en totalité, à l'Empire, elle n'a compris par ce mot "revenus" que les produits nets.

Voyons, d'ailleurs, à quelles conséquences conduirait l'application de la proportion des trois dixièmes aux revenus bruts.

Biens Vacoufs.—La dîme ou l'impôt cadastral dont ces biens sont redevables figure dans les recettes ordinaires de la province; celle-ci ne fait cependant que servir d'intermédiaire dans cette perception; ce qu'elle a perçu, elle la restitue aux administrateurs de biens vacoufs; il serait donc inique de percevoir les trois dixièmes sur ces sommes.

Avances Recouvrées.—La même observation s'applique tout naturellement aux recettes extraordinaires qui proviennent de recouvrement d'avances faites aux communes ou aux particuliers, car il ne s'agit en l'espèce que d'une opération de trésorerie.

Monopole du Sel.—Les recettes du monopole du sel sont inscrites au Budget de 1883-84 pour une somme de 6,200,000 piastres, mais il ne s'agit là que d'une recette brute, car la province qui, aux termes du Statut Organique, achète le sel qu'elle revend ensuite, aura à supporter de ce chef des frais évalués à 3,807,400 piastres, de telle sorte que, si la proportion des trois dixièmes était appliquée au produit brut, l'exploitation du monopole du sel rapporterait à la Sublime Porte 1,860,600 piastres et à la province 532,600 piastres seulement, conséquence absurde qui prouve bien que la proportion des trois dixièmes ne peut s'appliquer qu'aux produits nets. Le même raisonnement peut être fait pour les dépenses de l'Imprimerie Provinciale et en général pour les frais d'exploitation des différentes natures de revenus.

On doit reconnaître toutefois qu'en parlant des revenus sur lesquelles les trois dixièmes doivent être versés à la Sublime Porte, le Statut Organique n'a pas spécifié qu'il ne s'agissait que des revenus nets. On peut se rendre compte de cette omission en se rapportant à la solution adoptée dans les Annexes du Statut, qui ont établi le calcul du tribut pour les dix premières années en partant d'un chiffre purement arbitraire. Dans ces conditions il n'y avait à se préoccuper ni de revenus nets, ni de revenus bruts. Mais au point de vue des modifications qui peuvent être apportées par une loi provinciale au chiffre du tribut, cette distinction prend une très grande importance et l'iniquité des conclusions auxquelles conduirait l'application des trois dixièmes aux revenus bruts ainsi qu'on l'a montré plus haut, doit paraître un argument décisif. Mettant en regard les chiffres du tribut tel que l'ont fixé les Annexes du Statut Organique, et ceux qui seraient résultés de l'application pure et simple des dispositions du Statut proprement dit, on arrive au Tableau suivant:—

Exercices.	Chiffre des Annexes.	Chiffre résultant de l'application des trois dixièmes aux Revenus nets.
	Piastres.	Piastres.
1880-81	12,000,000	6,321,561
1881-82	21,000,000	14,608,871
1882-83	24,000,000	17,079,060
Arriérés d'impôts	..	1,811,916
Total	60,000,000	40,422,308

	Pias.	p.
La différence entre l'application des deux procédés conduit à un écart de ..	19,577,692	60
On voit ainsi que si l'on avait suivi l'esprit de la première partie du Statut, le déficit à la fin des quatre premiers exercices qui a été évalué plus haut à	29,065,543	37
N'eut été que de	9,487,851	37

Or, ce chiffre est un peu inférieur au montant des dépenses extraordinaires faites pendant les quatre premiers exercices et auxquelles on a fait face au moyen de ressources ordinaires. Rien ne s'oppose donc au point de vue financier le plus rigoureux à ce qu'un emprunt soit contracté pour couvrir cette somme. Ainsi donc, si l'on fait remise à la Roumélie des 19,577,692 piastres, montant de l'écart entre la manière de calculer le tribut inscrite dans les Annexes et celle que l'on peut tirer des termes seuls du Statut proprement dit, la situation financière à la fin des quatre premiers exercices se présentera sous un jour favorable.

De même, il n'a été possible d'équilibrer le projet de Budget de l'Exercice 1883-84 qu'en suivant une marche identique, c'est-à-dire en proposant de modifier, par une loi provinciale, l'Annexe No. 9 dans le sens indiqué plus haut et de recourir à un emprunt pour couvrir une partie des dépenses extraordinaires. C'est à ces deux conditions—remise d'une partie des arriérés et modification des Annexes du Statut pour l'avenir—que la province peut entrer dans la voie du progrès; aussi faut-il espérer que la Sublime Porte, intéressée d'une façon toute particulière à la prospérité financière de la province, lui accordera les moyens de sortir de ses embarras actuels.

L'exigibilité d'une somme aussi considérable que celle à laquelle s'élèvent les arriérés de tribut paralyserait en effet tout crédit. L'inscription au Budget d'une annuité destinée à rembourser la dette en un certain nombre de termes, compromettrait très sérieusement l'équilibre des Budgets à venir, même en supposant que pour ces Budgets les stipulations de l'Annexe 9 aient été modifiées. En agissant ainsi on ne ferait par conséquent que retarder une crise inévitable. Le refus absolu de toute concession

mettrait la province dans une situation très précaire à bref délai. Il faut espérer que ces fâcheuses éventualités lui seront épargnées.

(Signé) E. JACQUIN,
Conseiller de la Direction des Finances.

Philippopoli, le 21 Octobre, 1882.

No. 119.

Mr. Wyndham to Earl Granville.—(Received December 11.)

(No. 1096. Confidential.) *Constantinople, December 4*, 1882.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatches Nos. 1030 and 1038 of the 11th and 13th ultimo respectively, and to your Lordship's telegram No. 631 of the 25th ultimo, I have the honour to state that I mentioned to-day to the Grand Vizier, Said Pasha, that, in your Lordship's opinion, there would be no objection to conceding to the Russians a bit of ground at Shipka for the erection of a mortuary chapel, provided that the plans were first submitted for inspection in order to make sure that it was really a chapel they were about to build, and not a fortress in the guise of a church. His Highness thanked me for this expression of your Lordship's views, in which he said he entirely concurred.

I also told him that Her Majesty's Government did not think it desirable that a Russian should be Chief of the Staff in Eastern Roumelia; and I further informed him that, in the opinion of Captain Jones, Her Majesty's Consul-General at Philippopoli, there was no necessity for the Government of Eastern Roumelia incurring expenses in the purchase of Berdan rifles, which they did not require, especially as their finances were hardly sufficient to meet other necessary requirements.

Said Pasha did not express himself as altogether satisfied with the conduct of Aleko Pasha, and hinted that he was not really loyally acting in accordance with the views of the Western Powers.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

No. 120.

Mr. Wyndham to Earl Granville.—(Received December 11.)

(No. 1097.) *Constantinople, December 4*, 1882.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith, for your Lordship's information, a list of the members of the Government which was formed yesterday, with Said Pasha as Grand Vizier at its head.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

Inclosure in No. 120.

Extract from the "Eastern Express" of December 4, 1882.

THE following is a complete list of the Cabinet as now constituted:—

His Highness Said Pasha, Grand Vizier;
His Highness Ahmed Essad Effendi, Sheik-ul-Islam;
His Highness Mahmoud Nedim Pasha, Minister of the Interior;
His Highness Aarifi Pasha, Minister of Foreign Affairs;
His Excellency Akif Pasha, President of the Council of State;
His Excellency Edib Effendi, Minister of Finance;
His Excellency Ghazi Osman Pasha, Minister of War;
His Excellency Hassan Pasha, Minister of Marine;
His Excellency Assym Pasha, Minister of Justice;
His Excellency Ali Saïb Pasha, Grand Master of Ordnance;
His Excellency Subhi Pasha, Minister of Commerce and Agriculture;

His Excellency Kiamil Pasha, Minister of the Evkaf.
His Excellency Mustapha Pasha, Minister of Public Instruction;
His Excellency Hassan Fehmi Pasha, Minister of Public Works.

No. 121.

Sir E. Thornton to Earl Granville.—(Received December 11.)

E (No. 375.) *St. Petersburgh, December 6*, 1882.

My Lord,

ON the receipt of your Lordship's despatch No. 331 of the 28th ultimo relative to the proposed Roumano-Bulgarian Commission for putting up boundary marks on the line of frontier between the Roumanian territory on the right bank of the Danube and that of the Principality, I addressed a note to M. Vlangaly communicating to him the substance of the above despatch.

His Excellency this afternoon informed me verbally, in reply to my note, that the Bulgarian Government had already made a similar communication to the Imperial Government, and that, on examining the question, it had turned out that the Austro-Hungarian Government had long ago promised to communicate to the Bulgarian and Roumanian Governments respectively the final acts of the European Boundary Commissions relating to the Roumanian frontier, as confirmed by the Powers parties to the Treaty of Berlin.

Prince Lobanow was therefore instructed to inquire of Count Kálnoky whether this engagement had been carried out. His Excellency, after the matter had been examined into, was informed that, unfortunately, the question had been entirely overlooked, and no communication had been made upon the subject to the Roumanian or Bulgarian Government. Count Kálnoky promised, however, that now no time should be lost in transmitting to them the documents in question, and expressed his regret that it should not have been done at a proper time.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWD. THORNTON.

No. 122.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received December 11.)

E (No. 564.) *Vienna, December 7*, 1882.

My Lord,

I COMMUNICATED to Count Kálnoky your Lordship's despatch No. 358 inclosing the note of Prince Jon Ghika on the subject of the line of frontier between Roumania and Bulgaria.

His Excellency considers the Roumanian Government to have been justified in declining the proposal of the Bulgarian Government for the appointment of a Mixed Commission, on the ground of no communication having been made to them by the Powers of the decisions come to by the International Commission.

He agrees with your Lordship in considering that this communication should now be made by the Representatives of the Powers at Bucharest, but he thinks that a similar one should at the same time be made at Sophia, and that the Roumanian and Bulgarian Governments should both be invited to appoint special Commissioners to carry out the intentions recorded in the Report of the International Commission.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 123.

Earl Granville to Sir E. Thornton.

(No. 316.) *Foreign Office, December 11*, 1882.

Sir,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 344 of the 30th ultimo, on the subject of the language held by the Russian Chargé d'Affaires with regard to the views of his Government as to the proposed resumption of the delimitation of the Turco-Montenegrin boundary, I have to inform you that M. Davydow has since called to explain

that he had only been instructed by his Government to state that, in their opinion, the Porte should not be discouraged from proceeding to the settlement of the question; and that the addition that the Porte should not be allowed to make use of any objections on the score of weather to the resumption of work at the present time, as a pretext for abandoning it altogether, was a remark of his own, and did not form part of his instructions.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 124.

Earl Granville to Mr. Wyndham.

(No. 687.) *Foreign Office, December* 11, 1882.

Sir,

I HAVE to call your attention to Mr. Kirby Green's despatch No. 92 of the 2nd ultimo, a copy of which he states has been furnished to you by him, forwarding a French translation of a document which was presented to him on the 10th ultimo by a deputation representing the most influential and important of the Mahommedan refugees in Scutari from the towns and territories ceded to Montenegro under the Treaty of Berlin.

If the complaints contained in this document be well founded, they would seem to constitute a serious charge against the Montenegrin Government. Mr. Green is not, however, of opinion that a formal representation to Prince Nicholas, based on the present complaint, would lead to a favourable result.

I have to instruct you to communicate, confidentially, with the Porte upon the subject, and to ascertain whether the Turkish Government contemplate taking any action in the matter, or whether they intend to make any proposal to the Powers with reference to the question. If so, it would be advisable, in the interest of the Mussulman refugees, that his name should not be brought forward in connection with any representation which the Porte may deem it right to make, either to the Government of Montenegro or to the Powers parties to the Treaty of Berlin.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 125.

Earl Granville to Mr. Egerton.

(No. 102. Confidential.) *Foreign Office, December* 11, 1882.

Sir,

I TRANSMIT to you herewith a copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Consul-General at Scutari, stating that he has reason to believe that the Hellenic Government is employing emissaries to create disturbances in North and Middle Albania, and that the Turkish authorities are not ignorant of the fact.*

I have to instruct you to speak to M. Tricoupi, confidentially, on the subject of these reported proceedings, and to say that Her Majesty's Government trust that the Greek Government will give no encouragement to intrigues which, if they resulted in disturbances in the Albanian provinces of the Ottoman Empire, would certainly alienate from the Greek Government the sympathy of Her Majesty's Government, and might not result in any territorial or other advantage to Greece.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 126.

Earl Granville to Count Károlyi.

(Confidential.) *Foreign Office, December* 11, 1882.

M. l'Ambassadeur,

I HAVE the honour to state to your Excellency, with reference to the despatch addressed to you by Count Kálnoky on the 27th ultimo, and which you were good

* No. 82.

enough to communicate to me on the 2nd instant, relative to the proposal of the Sublime Porte for at once resuming the delimitation of the Turco-Montenegrin boundary, that Her Majesty's Government concur in the views of the Austro-Hungarian Government on this question, as stated in that despatch; and that they would have no objection to a reference to the arbitration of the Ambassadors at Constantinople, in the event of the Turkish and Montenegrin Governments being unable to come to any agreement.

I have the honour to transmit to your Excellency herewith, for the confidential information of the Austro-Hungarian Government, the accompanying copies of despatches to Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Constantinople, and Her Majesty's Ambassador at Rome, explaining the views of Her Majesty's Government on the subject.*

A copy of a Memorandum by Major Sale, British Commissioner on the Turco-Montenegrin Boundary Commission, relative to the question of resuming the work of demarcation at the present time, is also annexed.†

I have, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 127.

Mr. Wyndham to Earl Granville.—(Received December 11, 11 P.M.)

(No. 484.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, December* 11, 1882, 6·10 P.M.

MY telegram No. 476 of 6th instant.

The dismissal of the Vali of Scutari has been submitted to the Sultan for His Majesty's sanction.

(Mr. Green informed confidentially.)

No. 128.

Mr. Wyndham to Earl Granville.—(Received December 11, 11 P.M.)

(No. 485.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, December* 11, 1882, 6·20 P.M.

MY telegram No. 478 of yesterday.

The Grand Vizier has received news of a movement in Armenia, and of arrests having been effected. His Highness attributes it to external influence, meaning that of Russia.

No. 129.

Sir A. Paget to Earl Granville.—(Received December 12.)

(No. 436.)

My Lord, *Rome, December* 9, 1882.

ON receipt of your Lordship's despatch No. 356 of the 28th ultimo, I immediately addressed a note to the Minister for Foreign Affairs, suggesting, in accordance with your Lordship's instructions, that the Italian Representative at Bucharest should be instructed to communicate officially to the Roumanian Government the final Acts of the European Boundary Commission relating to the Roumano-Bulgarian frontier on the right bank of the Danube.

I have now the honour to inclose herewith to your Lordship translation of M. Mancini's reply, by which it appears that the Italian Government are ready, should the other Powers agree, to instruct the Italian Minister at Bucharest to bring the Act of Delimitation in question to the official knowledge of the Roumanian Government, in whatever form it may be by common accord agreed upon.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. PAGET.

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* Nos. 74 and 76. † No. 73.

Inclosure in No. 129.

M. Mancini to Sir A. Paget.

(Translation.)

Rome, December 7, 1882.

M. l'Ambassadeur,

IN answer to the note which your Excellency did me the honour to address to me on the 4th instant, I lose no time in informing you that His Majesty's Government is ready, as long as the other Powers who are parties to the Treaty of Berlin also consent, to instruct the Italian Minister at Bucharest to communicate to the Roumanian Government, in the form which shall be agreed upon as the most suitable, the official notification of the Act of Delimitation of the Bulgaro-Roumanian frontier, and also to take part in any other diplomatic formality which may be considered by common consent desirable in order to attain the object at present in view.

While requesting your Excellency to bring the above to the notice of the Government of Her Majesty the Queen, I avail, &c.

(Signed) MANCINI.

No. 130.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(Received December 13.)

(No. 99.)

Scutari, December 2, 1882.

My Lord,

IN acknowledging the receipt of your Lordship's telegram of the 30th ultimo, with a copy of the instructions to Mr. Wyndham on the subject of the reassemblage of the Montenegrin Boundary Commission, I have the honour to confirm my Reports to your Lordship No. 67 of the 11th August and No. 81 of the 25th September last.

By the amicable understanding come to between the Turkish and Montenegrin Governments during the past summer there now only remains the frontier from near Rikavać-jez, in the vicinity of Gussinjé, to Siskojezero, to be definitively settled. Until, however, the Porte comes to a direct understanding with Prince Nicholas concerning its claims to the village of Velika, or consents to abide by the decision of the majority of the Boundary Commission on the matter, it would certainly be dangerous to permit the demarcation of frontiers to be again brought under the notice of the local populations as an active question.

I believe, if the Turkish Government accepts the conditions upon which your Lordship is prepared to agree to a renewal of the work of delimitation, that any difficulties that might be raised on the subject by Montenegro could be smoothed away.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 131.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(Received December 13.)

(No. 100.)

Scutari, December 4, 1882.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for your Lordship's information, copies of a despatch and its inclosures this day addressed by me to Mr. Wyndham, and concerning the effort made by the Roman Catholic community of Scutari to draw the Porte's attention to the deplorable inefficiency of the authorities here.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

Inclosure 1 in No. 131.

Mr. Kirby Green to Mr. Wyndham.

Scutari, December 4, 1882.

Sir,

I YESTERDAY had the honour to send you a telegram based on a letter addressed to me by the Roman Catholic community of Scutari, communicating to me a copy of a complaint against the Vali, telegraphed by it on the previous day to the Grand Vizier.

I beg to transmit herewith a translation of this letter, together with a copy of the transcript of the telegram inclosed in it.

The Roman Catholics of Scutari number about 10,000, and are, necessarily, in intimate connection with the Catholic mountain tribes, who form the majority and most powerful section of the population of this province.

My recent Reports on the deplorable weakness of the Turkish authorities here have been sufficiently detailed to make it unnecessary for me to trouble you with further particulars thereon. I need, therefore, only add that, if the Porte turns a deaf ear to the appeal which has now been addressed to it, it is highly probable that before long it will find itself actively opposed by the North Albanian Roman Catholics.

I am not of opinion that the Turkish Government can get over the present state of affairs by one of its routine changes of Vali. The situation requires something more than an officer taken at haphazard, and suddenly transformed into a Governor-General.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

Inclosure 2 in No. 131.

The Roman Catholic Community at Scutari to Mr. Kirby Green.

(Translation.)

Scutari, December 2, 1882.

Sir,

THE Catholic community of Scutari has the honour to accompany herewith the copy of a telegram transmitted yesterday, viâ Spizza, to his Highness the Prime Minister of His Majesty the Sultan, and through which telegram the community implores for an immediate remedy of its most deplorable condition, a condition arising from the absence of quiet and public security in this town.

You are prayed most strongly, Sir, to report and support by telegraph to Her Britannic Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, the just and well-founded complaints of the Catholic population, which has the honour to, &c.

(Seal of the Christian Community of Scutari.)

(Countersigned) D. PASQUAL GUNELVI,

Parish Rector of the Catholic Community.

Inclosure 3 in No. 131.

The Roman Catholic Community of Scutari to the Grand Vizier.

(Télégraphique.)

LA tranquillité et la sûreté publique dans cette ville se trouvent dans un état bien plus déplorable qu'elles n'étaient sous le Gouvernement de Haggi Osman Pacha. La population Chrétienne n'est pas sûre ici, craignant toujours pour sa vie. Plusieurs familles ont déjà résolu de s'expatrier, si plus longtemps cet état de gouvernement doit durer. Tout cela arrive seulement par manque de bonne volonté dans l'actuel Gouverneur Abdi Pacha, qui reste spectateur silencieux des crimes de tout genre, qu'on commet continuellement en plein jour dans la ville.

Les crimes de sang, les agressions, les pillages de boutiques des maisons Chrétiennes, les vexations, les coups de bâton, les menaces à la vie des Chrétiens, s'ils ne correspondent pas aux désirs des malfaiteurs, se succèdent sans qu'il prenne aucune détermination et plusieurs fois à la présence même des zaptiés, qui restent indifférents comme si on leur avait ordonné non pas de saisir les malfaiteurs, mais bien de les garder, afin qu'ils puissent mieux accomplir avec succès les crimes de brigandage.

Cette façon de gouvernement d'Abdi Pacha, laquelle renferme en soi-même les plus grands dangers, a réduit la population Chrétienne à n'avoir plus aucune confiance en lui. Bien affligée à cause de tout cela elle implore instamment de la haute justice de votre Altesse un remède immédiat.

La population Chrétienne Catholique de Scutari-d'Albanie.

(L.S.)

No. 132.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(Received December 13.)

(No. 101. Confidential.)
Scutari, December 4, 1882.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 95 of the 14th ultimo, I have the honour to report to your Lordship that the Turkish authorities have lately effected at Durazzo and Tirana several arrests of Mussulman Albanians, who are believed to have been in communication with their countrymen at present resident at Corfu and elsewhere in Greece.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 133.

Count Kálnoky to Count Károlyi.—(Communicated to Earl Granville by Count Károlyi, December 15.)

E
Vienna, le 12 Décembre, 1882.

M. le Comte,

D'APRÈS une communication de M. l'Envoyé de Roumanie près la Cour Impériale et Royale, l'Agent de Bulgarie accrédité à Bucarest avait tout récemment saisi le Gouvernement Roumain d'une proposition tendant à instituer une Commission Roumano-Bulgare, qui serait chargée de bornage le long de la frontière de terre entre les deux pays, telle qu'elle avait était fixée par la Commission de Délimitation instituée *ad hoc* en vertu du Traité de Berlin.

Le Gouvernement Roumain a décliné cette proposition en se basant sur le fait, qu'aucune communication concernant cette frontière ne lui avait été faite jusqu'ici par les Puissances Signataires du Traité de Berlin. Le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté l'Empereur et Roi, tout en rendant hommage à l'attitude correcte observée en cette circonstance par le Gouvernement Roumain, croit qu'il serait désirable que les décisions de la Commission Internationale chargée de délimiter la frontière entre la Roumanie et la Bulgarie soient enfin portées officiellement à la connaissance du Gouvernement Roumain, afin de le mettre à même de procéder d'accord avec le Gouvernement Bulgare au placement des marques de bornage nécessaires.

L'acte de délimitation élaboré par la Commission Internationale instituée à cet effet, et portant la date du 17 Décembre, 1878, se trouve en effet compris dans le nombre des actes de délimitation auxquels le Gouvernment Anglais avait donné sa sanction par la déclaration en date du 9 Août, 1880, et rien ne paraît s'opposer désormais à ce que les stipulations y consignées soient portées officiellement à la connaissance des parties intéressées.

Pour arriver à ce résultat pratique, nous croyons devoir proposer comme moyen le plus simple de charger les Représentants des Puissances Signataires accréditées à Bucarest de s'entendre entre eux et de communiquer par une note collective au Gouvernement Roumain les décisions de la Commission Internationale de Délimitation consignées dans l'acte du 17 Décembre, 1878, et ayant trait à la frontière Roumano-Bulgare sur la rive droite du Danube. Nous croyons que les Représentants des Puissances à Bucarest pourraient en même temps être autorisés à informer le Gouvernement Royal qu'une notification analogue venait d'être faite au Gouvernement du Prince de Bulgarie, et à engager le Gouvernement Royal à s'arranger directement avec ce dernier pour la mise en exécution des décisions de la Commission. Une entente directe entre les pays limitrophes nous semble en effet d'autant plus facile, qu'à l'aide des cartes et des descriptions détaillées consignées dans le travail de la Commission de Délimitation, il ne saurait y avoir de doute sur la ligne de frontière en question, et sur les portions de territoire qui, de l'avis conforme de toutes les Puissances, devront revenir à l'un et à l'autre des deux pays. De cette manière on éviterait la nécessité de la réunion difficile, et de l'envoi coûteux d'une nouvelle Commission Internationale sur les lieux.

En conséquence de ce qui précède nous serions donc d'avis qu'une communication analogue soit faite par les Agents Diplomatiques des Puissances accrédités à Sophia, et que la Porte en soit prévenue d'avance à titre d'information.

Ainsi que votre Excellence voudra bien relever par la dépêche ci-jointe de Lord Granville, dont Sir Henry a bien voulu me laisser copie, le Gouvernement de Sa

Majesté Britannique partage entièrement notre manière de voir quant à la nécessité de donner officiellement connaissance au Gouvernement Roumain des décisions de la Commission de Délimitation.

Nous croyons seulement qu'il serait utile d'engager expressément les deux parties intéressées à s'entendre entre elles sur leur mise à exécution pour éviter que l'une d'elles ne fasse appel à une nouvelle réunion de la Commission de Délimitation prévue par le Traité de Berlin.

Veuillez, M. le Comte, vous énoncer dans le sens de la présente dépêche auprès du Gouvernement Anglais, et me faire connaître ses vues à ce sujet.

Recevez, &c.
(Signé) KÁLNOKY.

No. 134.

Mr. Wyndham to Earl Granville.—(Received December 18.)

(No. 1109.)
Constantinople, December 11, 1882.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my telegram No. 476 of the 6th instant, and to my telegram No. 484 of to-day, I have the honour to report that I spoke again to-day to the Minister for Foreign Affairs and also to the Grand Vizier, with reference to the apathetic conduct of the authorities at Scutari, as represented by Mr. Kirby Green, and I was informed that the information received at the Porte respecting their conduct coincided with that which had reached me, that efficacious measures were to be adopted to remedy the evils complained of, and that the dismissal of the Vali of Scutari had been submitted for the sanction of His Majesty the Sultan.

The Minister for Foreign Affairs also assured me, in reply to my inquiry, that he had written to the authorities at Scutari to be friendly towards Mr. Kirby Green, for which I expressed my best thanks to his Excellency.

I have communicated this intelligence to Mr. Green.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

No. 135.

Sir E. Thornton to Earl Granville.—(Received December 18.)

(No. 377.)
St. Petersburgh, December 14, 1882.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 370 of the 6th instant, I have the honour to transmit herewith a translation by Mr. Michell of a further article in the "Golos" of the $\frac{24\text{th November}}{\text{6th December}}$, again urging the expediency of a revision of the Treaty of Berlin.

It argues that the state of things created by that Treaty in the Balkan Peninsula cannot last long; that all the Powers, for their own respective reasons, except Germany, are opposed to the duration of the Treaty; that the Bosphorus and the Dardanelles have lost the significance they formerly possessed for England; that the Ottoman Empire cannot retain its character as a European Power; and that diplomatists should no longer hesitate to take the step which is expected of them by the rest of Europe.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWD. THORNTON.

Inclosure in No. 135.

Extract from the "Golos" of $\frac{\text{November 25}}{\text{December 7}}$, 1882.

(Translation.)

THE "Golos" of the $\frac{\text{24th November}}{\text{6th December}}$ 1882, in the following article again refers to the necessity of revising the Berlin Treaty:—

". . . Seeing that absolutely no one in Europe is disposed to interfere with England's plans with regard to Egypt, it is desirable that the realization of these plans should not be effected without benefitting the remainder of Europe. The question of the revision of the Berlin Treaty is coming to the fore in an ominous form.

Events passing in Turkey show that the Ottoman Empire will not be able to retain the position which Western diplomatists endeavoured to secure for it at the Berlin Congress.

"The state of things in the Balkan Peninsula cannot exist for long. Austro-Hungarian political circles commence to talk of the readiness of the Vienna Cabinet to agree to a fusion of Eastern Roumelia with the Bulgarian Principality if Russia will not oppose the final annexation of Bosnia and Herzegovina to Austria. In all projects and propositions concerning the future of the Balkan Peninsula a direct violation of the Berlin Treaty is spoken of.

"What signification could be possessed by an international obligation emanating from this Treaty? Who is interested at the present moment in its maintenance? It necessitates England making her seizure of Egypt, notwithstanding the silent consent of Europe to such seizure. France has no interest in insisting on the observance of an international compact which may interfere with a final annexation of Tunis; Austro-Hungary sees in the Berlin Treaty an obstacle to her firm establishment in Bosnia and Herzegovina; as regards Russia, the Berlin Treaty cannot, of course, possess any political charms for her; Germany alone may find advantage in maintaining a state of things which keeps alive in Europe the present international discord, so profitable to the political designs of Prince Bismarck. It is for this reason, we think, it would be appropriate not to delay further the solution of a question so closely connected with the tranquillity of Europe.

"Of the conditions which compelled the Western Powers to regard the Berlin Treaty as the best issue for them after the Russo-Turkish campaign there remains no longer a trace. The Bosphorus and Dardanelles have lost the significance they formerly possessed for England, whilst the impossibility of retaining for the Ottoman Empire the character of an European Power is evident to all. That which was considered unfeasible only three years ago is now regarded as possible. Will diplomatists hesitate to take that step which is expected from them by the rest of Europe?"

St. Petersburgh, December 12, 1882.

No. 136.

Lord Ampthill to Earl Granville.—(*Received December* 18.)

(No. 465. Confidential.)

Berlin, December 14, 1882.

My Lord,

IN obedience to your Lordship's instruction No. 489 of the 28th November, I addressed a note to the Minister for Foreign Affairs respecting the proposed communication to be made to the Roumanian Government on the subject of the boundary marks to be put up on the line of frontier between the Roumanian and Bulgarian territories on the right bank of the Danube; and I also communicated Prince Ghika's note of the 14th November on the subject to his Excellency.

To-day Count Hatzfeldt told me that he had talked the matter over with Prince Bismarck, who was not favourable to the proposed official communication of the Final Acts of the European Boundary Commissioners through the German Representative at Bucharest, and would prefer, if agreeable to your Lordship, that a collective note should be drawn up by all the Treaty Powers, and sent to their Representatives at Bucharest for communication to the Roumanian Government.

Count Hatzfeldt added as his opinion that, if any communication had to be made to the Bulgarian Government, it should be sent through the Porte.

I have, &c.

(Signed) AMPTHILL.

No. 137.

M. Catalani to Earl Granville.—(*Received December* 18.)

35, Queen's Gate, le 16 *Décembre*, 1882.

Milord,

L'AMBASSADEUR de Sa Majesté la Reine ayant adressé, en date du 4 courant, à son Excellence le Chevalier Mancini, une note dans laquelle il lui demandait, au nom du Gouvernement Britannique, s'il était disposé à donner à la Legation du Roi à

Bukharest l'ordre de notifier au Cabinet Roumain l'acte de délimitation de la frontière Roumano-Bulgare, son Excellence a répondu que le Gouvernement du Roi était prêt à s'associer à toutes les démarches qui pourraient être concertées, d'un commun accord, entre les Puissances Signataires du Traité de Berlin.

En portant ce qui précède à la connaissance de votre Excellence, j'ai l'honneur de vous renouveler les assurances, &c.

(Signé) T. CATALANI.

No. 138.

E *Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.*—(*Received December* 20.)

(No. 104.)

My Lord,

Scutari, December 6, 1882.

IN acknowledging the receipt of your Lordship's despatch No. 24 of the 24th ultimo, I have the honour to state that the Montenegrin Government has made no recent military preparations to justify the Porte's complaint brought under your Lordship's notice through Musurus Pasha's communication of the 17th ultimo.

I in no way wish to convey by this declaration an assurance that Montenegro is not prepared to make an attack against Turkey whenever a favourable opportunity may present itself for so doing. There is no need for the Principality to make preparations, as it is fully armed.

In 1880, 24,000 breech-loading rifles and leather cartouches and straps of the most approved patterns now used in the Austro-Hungarian army were purchased, together with 10,000,000 cartridges of the necessary calibre, through the Austrian Government. These arms and accoutrements are to be retained in store until war threatens, the Prince's body-guard only having been supplied with the new armament.

The 22,000 men, of which the Montenegrin army consists, continue to carry Kränka or Warndel breech-loading rifles, and of these there is a further supply of 10,000 in the magazines, inclusive of an ample provision of the requisite cartridges, 4,000,000 alone of the latter having been given as a gift in 1879 to Prince Nicholas by the Austrian Government.

Thus, there are now in Montenegro 34,000 breech-loading rifles in excess of the adult fighting population.

The Principality also possesses three or four batteries of mountain guns and one battery of 9 centim. breech-loading field cannons, received from Russia during the last war.

The alleged concentration of Montenegrin troops on the Albanian frontiers must be similarly refuted.

The financial resources of the Prince's Government, and the organization of his army, do not permit of military movements on a scale deserving the slightest attention except in times of imminent danger or actual war. A military concentration can be effected in Montenegro in a few hours, as was seen when Dulcigno was about to be ceded, and the whole of its 22,000 men can be collected at a given spot within a notice of four days. The Porte would only be likely to hear of a Montenegrin military concentration hostile to it, however watchful or intelligent its frontier authorities might be, on the eve or after the commencement of active operations.

Existence of latent danger has driven the Turkish Government to imagine that there are acute symptoms to cause it alarm, and a somewhat vague knowledge of the exact frontiers separating its dominions from Montenegro has made it to interpret an intention of Prince Nicholas to assert his authority in one of his newly acquired districts into a contemplated invasion of Ottoman territory.

Some weeks ago the Prince informed Riza Bey, the Turkish Envoy at Cettinjé, that he proposed sending a battalion to enforce the payment of taxes by four villages in the vicinity of Kolasein, who, although well within Montenegrin boundaries, still persisted in ignoring the change of masters to which recent Treaties had subjected them. His Highness expressed the hope that Riza Bey would warn the Kossovo Vilayet authorities of what was about to occur, in order that they might take steps to prevent the four villages in question from being assisted in their expected resistance by sympathizers from over the borders. The Turkish Minister suggested that, if sufficient time was given him, perhaps he might obtain that the Ottoman authorities, through their moral influence over the newly ceded district, should induce the peasants to pay the taxes without recourse being had to force. Prince Nicholas gladly accepted this offer, and is apparently still waiting for a favourable issue of Riza Bey's intervention,

which, however, must have been entirely misapprehended by the Kossovo authorities, who have raised the present cry of an invasion of Turkish territory.

My Report up to this point has only dealt with facts in direct connection with the notes of alarm sounded by the Porte. I will venture, therefore, to add some particulars which I believe ought to modify, to a certain extent, the value of the threatening position given to Montenegro by the above-stated facts.

The military organization of the Principality is a purely defensive one, quite unfit to venture upon operations much beyond its own territories. On each occasion that the Principality has engaged, in recent times, in war with Turkey, it has found, notwithstanding many military successes, that without the help of some friendly Power it would have finally succumbed to the superior strength of its enemy.

Almost the entire zone of new territory acquired on the Albanian side is ground that must be held by force of arms, or, as the Montenegrin Government cannot afford to maintain garrisons, has to be occupied in a perfunctory manner, the annexed populations being left very much to themselves.

On the first signal of hostilities between Montenegro and Turkey, either the entire strength of the Principality would have to be sacrificed for the defence of Podgoritza, Duleigno, and Antivari, and thus leave the door open to the enemy in the direction of Gussinjé and Kolascin, or the Montenegrins would have to divulge to Europe that they are incapable of holding what the Powers gave them.

Prince Nicholas would certainly feel keenly any such exposure of his weakness. It is neither carelessness nor soft-heartedness which prevent him from asserting his authority in the large district of Krain, on the western shores of Lake Scutari, formally ceded to Montenegro, or in the four villages near Kolascin, but simply a fear of local resistance. His Highness will endeavour to get there with Turkish assistance, but if this cannot be will bide a more favourable time, and not risk a single-handed struggle.

More alarm the Porte shows at Montenegrin proceedings the more will the Prince's Government attempt to increase it; therefore it is desirable that a well-established conviction should arise at Constantinople that the Albanian frontier is safe as long as Turkey has only to count with Montenegro.

The real danger lies in the Turkish border authorities permitting raids and outrages to be committed on the Montenegrins, and in the misgovernment of Albania, when appeals to the Powers, both from Montenegro and from this province, would have to be listened to. In that case the Principality might become a valuable base of operations to those who might undertake to see justice done, but still the Porte's troubles would not have been primarily caused by Montenegrin menaces or armaments.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 139.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(Received December 20.)

(No. 105.) *Scutari, December 7, 1882.*

My Lord,

DURING the last ten days four assassinations have been perpetrated in Scutari which have attracted more than usual local attention through the standing of the victims and the aggravated attitude of helplessness assumed by the authorities.

The victims were a policeman, a Mussulman shop-keeper, a Chief belonging to the village of Triepsci, now in Montenegrin territory, and Salih Agha, the Bash Beluk Bashi, or Chief of the Mussulman Government Representatives of the Roman Catholic tribes. The authors of the murders seem to have all been Christian mountain clansmen.

It is rumoured that the assassination of the Triepsci Chief was a political affair, as through his having cordially accepted Montenegrin rule and entered the Prince's service he was looked upon in the light of a traitor by the Scutari authorities and Mussulmans. I have not yet heard that the Montenegrin Government has lodged a complaint concerning this murder.

Salih Agha was one of the most influential of the Mahommedan noblemen of the town, and, through his office of head representative with the Government of the mountain tribes, was considered, in local estimation, to occupy a position little inferior to that of the Vali.

At a public meeting held to-day by the Mussulmans, it was pointed out that the weakness of the Turkish Administration was proving itself a much greater danger for the Mahommedans than the Christians, for, although it might seem pleasant for some few lawless characters to levy with impunity black-mail on the town rayahs, yet the mountaineers were now clearly demonstrating their superior powers for mischief.

Allusion was also made to the reported appeal for protection addressed by the North Albanian tribesmen to the Emperor of Austria, and to the door which misgovernment had opened for foreign interference.

I understand that an influential deputation afterwards conveyed an intimation to Abdi Pasha, the Vali, that active steps should be taken to maintain public security, or that his Excellency should make known to the Porte his inability to properly govern the province.

Abdi Pasha promised to concert both with the Mussulmans and the mountain Chiefs as to the steps which ought to be adopted for asserting the power of the authorities; but I am confidentially told that his Excellency is sufficiently simple to consider that the North Albanians will only tolerate Turkish rule as long as they are left in a quasi-state of anarchy.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 140.

E *Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(Received December 20.)*

(No. 106.)

My Lord, *Scutari, December 8, 1882.*

MY Turkish colleague at Cettinjé, who is also now here, informs me that Colonel Bedri Bey, the Turkish Montenegro Boundary Commissioner, will arrive early next week in the Principality with instructions to come to a direct understanding with the Montenegrin Government on the pending frontier questions.

Riza Bey proposes to return shortly to Cettinjé to assist Bedri Bey in his negotiations.

As I know that the Turkish Government is most anxious to obtain possession of the village of Velika, near Gussinjé, on the ostensible ground that it is a most important strategical position on the road between Gussinjé and Jacova and Ipek, but really because Ali Pasha, of Gussinjé, is owner of large estates at Velika, and, as I am equally aware of the determination of Prince Nicholas to hold the village in question, I have pointed out to Riza Bey how futile the intended negotiations are likely to prove.

I have urged him, if he really believes in the Porte's wish for a final settlement, to announce to it, before opening negotiations that could only irritate both parties, that the Montenegrins cannot be dislodged from their positions without hostile operations, and that, therefore, the only practical peaceable solution of the matter is to accept for the boundary still to be defined the principle of *uti possidetis*.

The Turkish Government would be safe from any attempt of the Montenegrins to advance from their present positions, as they know by experience that they could not do so with impunity. The only danger would, to my belief, lie in a possible wish of the Albanians to push forward their lines, but a loyal acceptance of the principle in question by the Porte would be sufficient to obviate such a contingency.

Riza Bey said he shared my views, and would endeavour to get them accepted by the Porte. I think, however, it is more probable he will subordinate his action to the instructions that Bedri Bey may have already obtained at Constantinople, and that a period of bootless discussions and bargainings will arise between the Turkish and Montenegrin Governments.

My colleague further said to me that if my suggested arrangement became an accepted fact, there would, of course, be no possibility of finally fixing the boundaries on the ground with the co-operation of the whole of the Boundary Commission until the end of April next, and that, therefore, he would propose to Prince Nicholas for Bedri Bey and the Montenegrin Commissioner to employ the interval in placing permanent boundary marks on the already delimited frontier from the mouth of the River Boyana to the western shore of Lake Scutari, and where work can be done at all seasons.

The complete disorganization into which Abdi Pasha has allowed the administration of this province to fall obliged me to explain to Riza Bey the dangers of

delimitation work at a moment when the Turkish authorities were incapable of affording protection, and to advise that nothing should be attempted on these confines until the local Government had re-established its legitimate ascendency.

In this matter also my colleague expressed his concurrence with me.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 141.

*Earl Granville to Lord Ampthill.**

(No. 331.) *Foreign Office, December* 20, 1882, 5·5 P.M.
(Telegraphic.)

FRONTIER between Roumania and Bulgaria.

Her Majesty's Government agree to Austrian proposal of 12th December, subject to the concurrence of other Powers.

No. 142.

Viscount Lyons to Earl Granville.—(Received December 21.)

(No. 1288.) *Paris, December* 20, 1882.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 1233 of the 2nd instant, I have the honour to transmit to your Lordship a copy of a note which has been addressed to me by M. Duclerc in answer to the suggestion that the Roumanian Government should be made acquainted officially with the decision of the European Commission, under the Treaty of Berlin, with regard to the frontier between Roumania and Bulgaria.

The note states that the French Government does not see any inconvenience in principle to this mode of proceeding, and that if application were made to them by either of the two countries concerned, they should have no objection to send suitable instructions to their Representative at Bucharest.

It adds that, in the opinion of the French Government, the notification should be made simultaneously at Bucharest and at Sophia by collective notes.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

Inclosure in No. 142.

M. Duclerc to Viscount Lyons.

Paris, le 19 *Décembre*, 1882.

M. l'Ambassadeur,

VOTRE Excellence a bien voulu porter à ma connaissance le texte d'une communication récemment adressée au Gouvernement de la Reine par le Ministre de Roumanie et relative à l'abornement de la frontière de la Dobrudja entre la Roumanie et la Bulgarie. Une démarche ayant été faite en vue de cet abornement par l'Agent du Prince Alexandre à Bukharest, le Gouvernement du Roi Charles n'a pas cru devoir y accéder, par le motif que les décisions prises par les Commissions Internationales, nommées à la suite du Traité de Berlin, n'avaient pas été officiellement notifiées aux Cabinets directement intéressés. Averti de cet état de choses par le Prince Ghika, le Gouvernement Britannique estime qu'il serait opportun de procéder sans retard à la notification officielle dont il s'agit, à l'effet de ne pas ajourner plus longtemps les opérations de bornage projetés.

Le Gouvernement de la République ne voit, en principe, aucun inconvénient à cette manière de procéder, et, si l'une des deux parties nous saisit de la question, je n'aurai pas d'objection à envoyer les instructions nécessaires au Ministre de France à Bukharest.

Il conviendrait, ce semble, que les notifications fussent faites simultanément à Bukharest et à Sophia par note collective.

Agréez, &c.
(Signé) E. DUCLERC.

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* Also to Viscount Lyons (No. 330), Sir H. Elliot (No. 328), Sir A. Paget (No. 360), and Sir E. Thornton (No. 324).

No. 143.

Aarifi Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(Communicated to Earl Granville by Musurus Pasha, December 21.)

E
(Télégraphique.) *Constantinople, le* 20 *Décembre*, 1882.

EN réponse à notre communication concernant la délimitation des frontières Monténégrines, quelques Cabinets ont fait des observations sur la saison avancée.

La marche que notre Commissaire a pour instruction de suivre est de nature à écarter cette objection. Il aura, en attendant l'arrivée de ses collègues Européens, à poursuivre l'arrangement convenu avec le Gouvernement Monténégrin quant à la ligne du *statu quo*. Cette partie de la tâche de Bédri Bey prendrait nécessairement quelque temps, de telle sorte que jusqu'à ce que les détails de l'arrangement soient arrêtés, la belle saison sera arrivée, et il ne resterait plus d'obstacle à la réunion des Commissaires des Puissances.

Je prie votre Excellence de faire part de ces réflexions au Gouvernement auprès duquel vous êtes accrédité.

No. 144.

Earl Granville to Count Károlyi.

M. l'Ambassadeur, *Foreign Office, December* 21, 1882.

YOUR Excellency has been good enough to communicate to me a copy of a note from Count Kálnoky containing the opinion of the Austro-Hungarian Government as to the manner in which the decision of the International Boundary Commissioners, in regard to the frontier between Roumania and Bulgaria, should be communicated to the Governments of those countries.

I have the honour to inform your Excellency that Her Majesty's Government will be happy to agree to Count Kálnoky's proposal, and will give instructions in that sense to their Representatives at Bucharest and Sophia, on learning that it has received the assent of the other Powers.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 145.

Sir A. Paget to Earl Granville.—(Received December 22, 3 P.M.)

(No. 129.)
(Telegraphic.) *Rome, December* 22, 1882, 12·15 P.M.

ROUMANIAN and Bulgarian frontier.

Your Lordship's telegram No. 360 of the 20th instant.

The Italian Government have also accepted the Austrian proposal of the 12th instant.

No. 146.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received December 25.)

(No. 577. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Vienna, December* 22, 1882.

WITH reference to Mr. Kirby Green's despatch No. 95, Secret, to your Lordship, stating that the Greek Government were employing Agents to create a disturbance in Albania, I have the honour to inform you that I am told confidentially that information to the same effect has been received by the Austro-Hungarian Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 147.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received December 25.)

(No. 579.) *Vienna, December 22, 1882.*

My Lord,

THE Reports received by Count Kálnoky entirely confirm what has been stated to your Lordship by Mr. Kirby Green of the incompetence and want of energy of the Turkish authorities in Albania, and he has urged the Porte to replace them by efficient men.

At the same time he believes the Albanian tribes to be, on the whole, at this moment quieter than usual, and he thinks less than Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Cettinjé of the occasional murder of a shepherd or the driving off of a flock, for such things have been going on from time immemorial from both sides of the frontier, and some at least of these irregularities have lately been perpetrated by the Montenegrins, over whom the Prince is able to exercise far more control than has ever been possessed by the Turkish authorities over the Albanians on their side of the frontier.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 148.

Mr. Wyndham to Earl Granville.—(Received December 26.)

(No. 1125.) *Constantinople, December 18, 1882.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report that I have communicated to the Sublime Porte the views of Her Majesty's Government, as set forth in your Lordship's despatch No. 676 of the 30th ultimo, as to the settlement of the Turco-Montenegrin Boundary question, and that, in order to prevent any misunderstanding, I have handed in a Memorandum (copy of which is herewith inclosed), in the terms of the last paragraph of your Lordship's above-mentioned despatch.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

Inclosure in No. 148.

Pro-memorid.

DES informations que le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté Britannique a reçues, il ne lui semble pas qu'une entente réelle se soit établie entre la Turquie et le Monténégro, par rapport à la frontière en contestation. Le Gouvernement Britannique ne saurait être disposé de se joindre à la reprise des travaux, qu'à la condition qu'une ligne strictement définie aura été convenue au préalable, ligne qui laissera aussi peu de chose que possible à régler sur les lieux, et que de plus les Gouvernements Ottoman et Monténégrin devront s'engager entre eux à accepter les décisions de la majorité de la Commission en ce qui touche son exécution sur les lieux.

Le 18 Décembre, 1882.

No. 149.

Mr. Wyndham to Earl Granville.—(Received December 26.)

(No. 1127.) *Constantinople, December 19, 1882.*

My Lord,

WITH reference to the Earl of Dufferin's despatch to your Lordship No. 1093, Confidential, of the 12th December, 1881, I have the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Consul-General at Philippopoli, inclosing the Report of the Roumelian Mussulman Commission sent by the Roumelian Prefect of Bazardjik to effect the submission of certain districts in the Rouptchous-Rhodope, in which, however, they have not been successful.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

Inclosure in No. 149.

Consul-General Jones to Mr. Wyndham.

Sir, *Philippopoli, December 15, 1882.*

IN my despatches to Her Majesty's Embassy at Constantinople of the 26th August, 15th October, and 6th December, all of last year, I had the honour to report to his Excellency the Earl of Dufferin on the relations existing between this province and certain villages of the Rouptchous-Rhodope, which, although lying within the frontier of Eastern Roumelia, still continue to be administered by the Turkish authorities.

Certain recent advances on the part of the inhabitants led the provincial authorities to believe that they were at length prepared to tender their submission; and to promote this object a Commission, composed of Roumelian Mussulmans, was dispatched to the districts in question by the Roumelian Prefect of Bazardjik.

Their Report on the result of their mission I have the honour to forward herewith. It failed in its object apparently from the system of terrorism exercised by certain leading Turks of the district over the poorer and better disposed classes, in which truculent conduct it would appear they are encouraged and supported by the Kaïmakam of Nevrecop, in the Province of Macedonia.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY M. JONES.

No. 150.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received December 26.)

(No. 581.)

My Lord, *Vienna, December 23, 1882.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship the inclosed despatch, which has been addressed to me by Colonel Primrose, Military Attaché to this Embassy.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure in No. 150.

Lieutenant-Colonel Primrose to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Vienna, December 21, 1882.*

THE following information of the state of the occupied provinces is mainly derived from the "Neue Freie Presse." An article in that journal reviews this morning the result of the year which has elapsed since the outbreak of the insurrection in Bosnia and Herzegovina, an insurrection which required the force of 76,000 men to overcome, and has doubled the former garrison in consequence.

The only symptoms observable of improvement in the condition of these provinces, now that the rebellion has been suppressed, is a marked increase in the revenue, and a tendency to reconciliation among the Mahommedan population.

Owing to a bad season and continued wet up to the end of September, the first ten months of the past year showed many arrears, even in those districts that had been spared the operations of the campaign. Since then, however, there has been no such complaint, and even at Foca, the former centre of the disturbances, the payment of the taxes has been very satisfactory.

The Mahommedan population has apparently become convinced of its mistake in fancying that a secret alliance existed in their favour between England, Turkey, and Russia, with the object of freeing Bosnia and Herzegovina from Austrian control. It is said that this notion, supported by a forged Firman of the Sultan, circulated from Cettinjé, was one of the chief causes of the late rising. The Mahommedans show an inclination to a friendly approach of the Austrian Government. The majority of those who escaped during the war are returned to their homes, and beginning not only to take again to agricultural pursuits, but also agitate for the improvement of the communications. But they are too indolent to show much zeal in recruiting for the local regiments recently organized.

The drawbacks to the present situation are due to the refugees and robber bands. There are at present 2,300 men capable of bearing arms and belonging to the occupied provinces interned in Montenegro. This number must be increased by that of the dependents. Most of these refugees are from the Herzegovina. 1,150 men alone are from the district of Bilek, and this district is almost entirely depopulated.

Only fifty of the grand total are Mahommedans. The refugees (650 men) from Nevesinje and (74 men) from Gacko have left their families behind them, and subsist in a great measure from the supplies the latter furnish them. In the other cases the refugees, were they to return, would have to rebuild their houses, retill their land, and submit to an unpopular conscription. They prefer, not unnaturally, to remain with their cattle in the more favourable pastures of Grahovo, Niksich, Podgoritza, and Spuc.

Nor does it appear, in spite of the good intentions of the Prince, that the Montenegrin Government is very anxious to induce these people to return. Neither indirectly nor directly does it exercise any influence in this direction. It is to the advantage of those who hope for the future predominance of Montenegro over the neighbouring portion of the occupied provinces that this question should be kept an open one, and in all probability the refugees will remain where they are.

The existence of robber bands in the Zagorje and neighbourhood of Foca is due to the existence of several compromised and needy partisans of the late insurrection under the friendly cover of the woody valley of the Drina. In this district alone, between the 20th October and the 10th November, no less than twenty-three outrages took place.

On the 20th November and the 5th December conflicts took place between robber bands and the flying columns of troops sent out to disperse them. The total of these insurgents in the Zagorje is estimated at not over forty men, and by the last skirmishes ten have been killed, two wounded, and two made prisoners; five have moreover since surrendered, and others have offered to do the same on an amnesty being promised to them.

In the Herzegovina the robber bands are more important. They are estimated altogether at 200 men, who act in small detachments of fifteen or twenty strong. They are recruited mainly from refugees, and may be regarded as the embers of the insurrection. They are favoured by the difficult nature of the country, by the sympathy of the peasants as well as by their own terrorism.

The newly organized flying column here is also not in full working order.

These flying columns are composed from 300 men, recruited from men who volunteer for six months from the Austro-Hungarian regiments garrisoning Bosnia and Herzegovina.

A special vote of 120,000 fl. was passed in the Budget for these services.

The power of these flying columns will be materially assisted by the completion of the chain of "kulas" or block-houses to be constructed for small posts of twenty to twenty-five men at every kilometre of the Montenegrin frontier from Grivosje to Celebic, near Novi-Bazar.

This line of garrison will at all events prevent the freedom of passage from one State to the other.

The principal works of this nature, as well as the fortifications above Risano, have been seriously interrupted by the snow and wet. The recent storms have, indeed, considerably damaged what has already been done.

The forts and "block-houses" lie very high (all over 4,000 feet above the sea), and it is easy to understand the difficulties that are in the way of their construction. They have, however, been sufficiently advanced in spite of the unfavourable weather to assure their being finished at no very distant date.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EVERARD PRIMROSE, *Lieutenant-Colonel, Military Attaché.*

No. 151.

E (No. 55.) *Earl Granville to Mr. Lascelles.*

Sir, *Foreign Office, December* 26, 1882.

THE Turkish Ambassador has communicated to me a despatch from the Porte, of which I inclose a copy,* complaining of the manner in which the progress of the Turco-Bulgarian Lands Commission appointed under the 2nd paragraph of Article XII of the Treaty of Berlin is impeded by the action of the Bulgarian Commissioners.

I have to instruct you to furnish me with a report of the proceedings of this Commission since Nihat resumed his duties upon it, as announced in your despatch No. 31 of the 19th March.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 152.

Earl Granville to Musurus Pasha.

M. l'Ambassadeur, *Foreign Office, December* 26, 1882.

YOUR Excellency communicated to me, on the 8th instant, a note from the Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs, complaining of the manner in which the progress of the Turco-Bulgarian Lands Commission, appointed under Article XII of the Treaty of Berlin, is impeded by the action of the Bulgarian Delegates.

I have the honour to inform your Excellency that I have called upon Her Majesty's Agent at Sophia for a Report on this matter.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 153.

E (No. 41.) *Consul Freeman to Earl Granville.—(Received December* 27.)

My Lord, *Serajevo, December* 19, 1882.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 38, Political, of the 28th October, I think it can now be confidently said that the insurrection in these provinces is for the time being at an end. There are, of course, numerous small robber bands about the country still, and will continue to be, probably, for years, but even these have of late been somewhat less heard of. This increased state of tranquillity may be attributed to various causes, such as the approach of winter and the more complete military occupation of the country, but there is no doubt that the chief reason is the failure of expected assistance from without. How long this improved state of affairs will exist it is difficult to predict, but natives whom I believe to be well informed of the ideas and intentions of the insurgents, and of the population in general, seem to think that there is no danger of any renewed rising unless it be instigated by foreign agents and backed up by foreign assistance. In any case, I do not believe that the Mahommedans, who have now all returned to their homes, will associate themselves with the Christians in any future insurrectionary movement. They consider that they have been deceived by these latter, having been assured by them of the eventual assistance of Russia to throw off the Austrian yoke, and, if not to restore the Ottoman power, to enable them, at least, to form an autonomous State under the suzerainty of the Porte. They have learnt now the value of such assurances, and are not likely to be led away again by mere visionary projects.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWD. B. FREEMAN.

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* No. 110.

No. 154.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(*Received December* 28.)

E
(No. 107.) *Scutari, December* 18, 1882.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that I have been informed by Riza Bey, who returned from Cettinjé last night, that Bedri Bey, the Turkish Boundary Commissioner, whom he had gone to Montenegro to meet, has commenced direct negotiations with the Prince's Government for arriving at an understanding on the yet undetermined points of the Turco-Montenegrin frontier.

An attempt was at once made by the Montenegrin Government, probably based on the error which, through misapprehension of the matter, had crept into Saïd Pasha's Circular telegram of the 25th ultimo, communicated to your Lordship by Musurus Pasha on the 27th ultimo, to seek compensation for the cession by the Prince to Turkey of the village and hills of Matagus. Riza Bey, however, reminded Prince Nicholas that the concession was unconditional, and His Highness did not dispute the fact, so that, the Turkish Minister believes, no further difficulty need be apprehended in this direction.

In my despatch No. 31 of the 10th March last your Lordship will find a confirmation of Riza Bey's contention that the arrangement which he had arrived at with the Prince was free of all claims for compensation.

As I have already had the honour of stating to your Lordship, the village of Velika is now the only real obstacle to an understanding being come to between the Turks and Montenegrins. Bedri Bey's instructions on this point appear to leave him no freedom of action, and, as the Montenegrins show no disposition to abandon their hold of the village, the negotiations are likely to be quickly interrupted, when Bedri Bey will withdraw to Scutari to await the reassembling of the entire Boundary Commission in spring.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 155.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(*Received December* 28.)

E
(No. 108.) *Scutari, December* 18, 1882.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch to your Lordship No. 106 of the 8th instant, I have the honour to report to your Lordship that Riza Bey has been obliged, owing to his health, to leave Cettinjé for the rest of the winter, and that Dagnes Effendi has been appointed Turkish Chargé d'Affaires there. It is therefore probable that my suggestions to Riza Bey about a practical arrangement of the few remaining unsettled portions of the Turco-Montenegrin frontier will not reach the Porte through its Legation at Cettinjé.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 156.

Earl Granville to Mr. Wyndham.

E
(No. 713.) *Foreign Office, December* 28, 1882.

Sir,

I HAVE to inform you that I approve the language used by you in your interview with the Grand Vizier, as reported in your despatch No. 1096 of the 4th instant, with regard to the proposed concession to the Russians of a piece of ground at Shipka for the erection of a mortuary chapel, and, further, respecting the nationality of the Chief of the Staff in Eastern Roumelia and the proposal for the purchase of Berdan rifles by the Government of that province.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 157.

Musurus Pasha to Earl Granville.—(*Received December* 29.)

E
Milord, *Ambassade Impériale Ottomane, Londres, le* 28 *Décembre,* 1882.

J'AI l'honneur de transmettre ci-joint à votre Excellence la traduction d'une communication adressée à la Sublime Porte par le Patriarcat Œcuménique de Constantinople, exposant les griefs de la communauté Orthodoxe de la Bulgarie contre les autorités Princières, communication qui, ayant dû être expédiée à l'Ambassade Impériale par le courrier du 31 Octobre dernier, ne m'est parvenue, par suite d'une erreur, que tout récemment.

En m'invitant à communiquer ce document à votre Excellence, le Gouvernement Impérial ne doute point qu'elle ne veuille bien faire parvenir au Gouvernement Bulgare des représentations propres à l'amener au respect des stipulations du Traité de Berlin, qui a assuré à toutes les communautés se trouvant dans la Principauté le libre exercice de leur culte.

J'ai, &c.
(Signé) MUSURUS.

Inclosure in No. 157.

The Œcumenical Patriarch at Constantinople to Saïd Pasha.

(Traduction.)

Excellence, *Le* 6 *Septembre,* 1882.

VOTRE Excellence n'ignore point toutes les vexations et toutes les souffrances qu'a dû éprouver la Grande Église de Constantinople, combattue qu'elle a été pendant plus de dix ans par une partie puissante et considérable de la population Bulgare, partie qui, à la suite de l'incident ecclésiastique connu sous le nom de "question Bulgare," a formé la Principauté actuelle de Bulgarie. Votre Excellence n'ignore pas non plus que finalement l'Église s'est vue dans la pénible nécessité de déclarer en 1872, par une décision du Grand Synode, cette partie de la population Bulgare schismatique, et ne faisant plus partie de la masse des Chrétiens Orthodoxes soumis à sa juridiction.

Après cet acte canonique du Patriarcat, il s'est formé dans quelques endroits de la Principauté actuelle, en dépit des violentes persécutions exercées par un peuple fanatique qui s'est donné pour tâche de détruire tout ce qui dépend et relève du trône œcuménique, il s'est formé, dis-je, des communautés Orthodoxes formant une population soit purement Grecque, soit mixte, et continuant les traditions ecclésiastiques de leurs pères et leurs relations avec notre Grande Église.

Des communautés de cette espèce, comptant plusieurs milliers d'âmes, se trouvent dans la ville de Varna et dans ses environs. On y a même conservé le siège du Métropolitain Orthodoxe, qui, jusqu'au commencement de l'année 1881, avait, au milieu des Orthodoxes de cette ville, exercé, sans être inquiété, les devoirs spirituels d'Évêque. Ce sont là des faits que nous constatons avec plaisir et qui font honneur à l'Administration d'alors de cette Principauté; mais malheureusement, la situation des Chrétiens Orthodoxes à Varna et dans ses environs a bien changé depuis.

Il y a déjà plus d'un an il s'est produit du côté des habitants Bulgares un mouvement qui, fomenté et secondé par certains Agents de la Préfecture, tend par degrés à l'anéantissement complet des communautés Orthodoxes dont on usurpe tout établissement religieux ou scolaire, et qui se trouve en butte à une persécution systématique. Des émissaires, portant un caractère officiel, sont envoyés auprès des dites communautés dans le but de les amener, à l'aide de menaces et de mesures oppressives, à se détacher de la Métropole Orthodoxe, à s'unir à l'Exarcat schismatique Bulgare et à se faire donner par lui des prêtres et des instituteurs, cette accession au schisme devant avoir pour effet de substituer dans les églises et dans les écoles la langue Bulgare à celle dont leurs pères se servaient depuis des siècles.

En présence des menées dont sont l'objet des Chrétiens Orthodoxes, menées empreints d'un caractère de préméditation et fortement encouragé par les autorités locales, la Métropole Orthodoxe de Varna, ainsi que l'Église de Constantinople, se sont vues forcés de faire, chacune de son côté, par écrit ou de vive voix, et de la façon la plus légale, des représentations auprès de qui de droit en vue d'obtenir le rétablissement dans ces contrées de l'ancien ordre de choses religieux et ecclésiastiques et la cessation de toutes les persécutions dirigées contre les enfants spirituels de la Grande

Église. Malheureusement ces représentations n'ont point eu pour effet d'arrêter la marche rapide des choses.

À l'appui de ce que nous avançons et pour compléter les renseignements contenus dans le "takrir" soumis à votre Excellence le 2 Djémazi-ul-Evvel, 1289, nous allons énumérer une série de faits comme il s'en produit continuellement à Varna et dans les environs de cette ville, et qui mettent en évidence les vues et les dispositions dont sont animés les fauteurs du mouvement dont il est question plus haut.

1. Des envoyés de la Préfecture de Varna, abusant de leur pouvoir, et à l'aide de procédés illicites et oppressifs, ont obligé les Orthodoxes du village de Djaferly à se séparer, en désespoir de cause, de leur mère Église, et à signer une requête déclarant leur accession à l'Exarcat schismatique Bulgare. Les mêmes mesures coercitives ont été appliquées par les mêmes agents aux Orthodoxes des villages Dérékeuy, Yénikeuy, Djérizly, et Tchaouskeuy; ces derniers ayant dû également céder à la force majeure.

2. Ces mêmes agents de la Préfecture, d'une façon également tyrannique, ont arrêté et incarcéré le curé Abraham, ainsi que les Notables du village de Kestritzi qui avaient refusé de renier leur chef spirituel et d'accéder à l'Exarcat schismatique Bulgare. Des rapports ayant été adressés à ce sujet par le Métropolitain Orthodoxe de Varna, ainsi que par les habitants du village ci-dessus mentionné, le Ministère Princier des Cultes a fait des déclarations dans lesquelles il était dit que "la liberté de conscience est garantie dans la Principauté." Néanmoins, en dépit de ces déclarations, curé et Notables, au nombre de trente, ont été maintenus en prison, notamment pendant les fêtes de Noël, et ils n'ont pu obtenir leur élargissement qu'après plus d'un mois de détention et à la suite d'un engagement par écrit qui leur avait été imposé par l'autorité, et dans lequel les Notables déclaraient ne plus vouloir du Père Abraham pour prêtre, et le Père Abraham promettait, de son côté, de quitter le village. Cette mesure de police a eu pour effet de contraindre les villageois à accepter, bon gré mal gré, le curé de l'Exarcat schismatique, qui déclare ouvertement que ce sera lui qui officiera à Kestrich pour tout le monde sans distinction de Bulgares et de Grecs, voulant ainsi soumettre ces derniers au schisme; on a même recours à l'amende et à la bastonnade pour forcer les Orthodoxes à aller entendre le saint office célébré en Bulgare.

3. Dans les villages de Tchaouchkeuy et de Djevijly, la foule Bulgare, sous la tolérance et avec le consentement des agents en question, trouble et interrompt les mystères célébrés par les prêtres Orthodoxes; c'est ainsi qu'elle a chassée un curé Orthodoxe nommé Paul tandis qu'il bénissait une noce, et elle a forcé les mariés à recevoir la bénédiction nuptiale des mains d'un prêtre schismatique.

4. Ces mêmes agents, profitant de l'état d'indigence des habitants de Yénikeuy, et prenant pour prétexte le fait que ceux-ci s'étaient jadis procuré, dans les forêts limitrophes, du bois destiné à la construction d'une église, les ont traînés par devant les Tribunaux de Varna; et, après les avoir épouvantés par des menaces et par la perspective d'énormes amendes à payer, ils leur ont proposé de faire cesser les poursuites s'ils consentaient à s'unir à l'Exarcat schismatique.

5. Les municipaux Bulgares ont, pour des raisons vraiment inouïes, suscité un procès contre la communauté Orthodoxe Grecque de Varna, en vue de lui enlever les deux petits monastères de St. Constantin et de St. Démètre, monastères dont la propriété appartenait sans conteste, dès le temps de leur construction, à la Métropole Orthodoxe de cette ville. Ce procès scandaleux fut abandonné à la suite de la cession d'un des dits monastères moyennant une indemnité.

6. Le Préfet de Baltjik, district du Département de Varna, s'étant rendu en personne au village voisin de Kavarna, est entré de vive force dans l'école communale Orthodoxe, après en avoir enfoncé la porte, en a jeté dans la rue les livres, bancs, &c., et a livré cet établissement entre les mains des Bulgares.

7. Le Métropolitain de Varna s'étant plaint à qui de droit de toutes ces vexations, ainsi que son caractère sacerdotal lui en imposait le devoir, a été qualifié de factieux, et s'est vu étroitement cerné par la police dans sa Métropole, dont l'accès par tout Chrétien désirieux de s'y rendre pour ses besoins spirituels était puni des peines les plus sévères.

8. Non seulement les autorités a fait emprisonner plusieurs villageois pour être allés visiter leur père spirituel, mais elles ont aussi fait arrêter et jeter en prison tous les Notables du village de Carahusséin qui avait demandé à leur Évêque de venir les bénir, et dire chez eux la messe. De plus, les autorités se sont emparées de l'école, et en ont chassé le maître Orthodoxe qu'elles ont remplacé par un maître Bulgare.

9. À Baltjik les agents de l'autorité ont prêté ouvertement leur concours à la populace Bulgare qui est venue, à la façon des brigands, arracher aux Orthodoxes

l'église du quartier d'Ayazma, tandis que des gens du pouvoir prenaient possession du cimetière de cette localité, en forçaient l'entrée et y enterraient un de leurs morts.

10. Les autorités Bulgares se refusent à reconnaître M. Callinicos, Évêque d'Argyropolis, que le Patriarcat Œcuménique y a envoyé comme Vicaire du Métropolitain de Varna, invité ici en qualité de membre Synodal. Les agents Bulgares témoignent par tous les moyens et d'une façon éclatante les sentiments de malveillance dont ils sont animés à l'égard des communautés Orthodoxes, de leur curé et de leur Évêque.

Nous aimons à croire, Excellence, que le récit véridique des faits qui précèdent ne manquera pas d'exciter la commisération de tous ceux qui aiment sincèrement la justice et la vérité en faveur d'un peuple qu'on veut forcer à renier les traditions de leurs pères. Le Gouvernement de la Bulgarie, au mépris du droit international, au mépris du droit naturel, contrairement aux devoirs que lui impose sa qualité d'État civilisé, contrairement enfin à tout ce qui constitue la justice, procède ou laisse procéder à des actes ayant évidemment pour but la ruine de tout ce qui forme une communauté Orthodoxe reconnaissant l'Église mère.

Aussi, la Grande Église Orthodoxe, ne pouvant plus supporter la triste situation qui nous est faite, et en présence de l'accueil indifférent, ou, pour mieux dire, du mépris que rencontrent toutes les démarches que nous avons faites jusqu'ici en vue d'y remédier, je crois remplir un devoir sacré en protestant légalement contre la conduite de ceux qui perpètrent ou soutiennent des actes illégaux et tyranniques, et je viens supplier votre Excellence de vouloir bien aviser aux moyens propres à ramener les choses ecclésiastiques et religieuses en l'état où elles se trouvaient avant les usurpations et les oppressions dont elles sont en ce moment l'objet, et à mettre désormais les droits des Orthodoxes à l'abri de toute violation injuste et illicite de quelque côté qu'elle vienne.

Veuillez, &c.

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